



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A
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Tel: 020 7219 7048

March 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for writing to me about non-medical staff in the NHS.

It is important to ensure that all people who work in the NHS are valued and respected for their contributions, regardless of the role they play. The NHS and Department of Health and Social Care published a People Plan, designed to ensure that the NHS workforce is well supported and offered clear and fulfilling career and development goals.

The People Plan targets NHS staff at all levels and across all sectors, seeking to improve inclusion, diversity and leadership culture. Key to driving forward this change will be the national workforce group, including the new NHS Chief People Officer, who will be responsible for championing all NHS workers at the highest level.

As part of a commitment to the NHS funding is being provided to upgrade 20 hospitals and build 40 new ones, ensuring state-of-the-art infrastructure and care. I recognise the vital importance of facilities management, maintenance staff, porters and cleaners in keeping these facilities running and up to standard.

Non-medical staff in the NHS have been central to the national effort to combat coronavirus. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that families of eligible workers who die from coronavirus in the course of their frontline essential work will receive a £60,000 payment, with funding provided to support similar schemes in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This will cover full, part-time or locum NHS and public health workers, including GPs, dentists, retired staff and second and final year students taking up paid frontline roles, and has been extended to NHS support staff and social care workers.

Agenda for Change is the scheme for all NHS staff other than doctors, dentists, and most senior managers. However, it does not apply to staff employed through contractors. In these cases, the NHS encourage suppliers to pay their staff the equivalent to what they would be paid if directly employed.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY