



The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State, Department of Health & Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

25 February 2025

Dear Wes,

RE: NHS Outsourcing

I'm writing to you following correspondence from constituents who are concerned about the outsourcing of NHS services. I'm hearing from people who responded to the consultation on the "Future of the NHS" last year to share their views. They are surprised and disappointed by Government plans to expand the scope of private sector provision, as detailed in the "Partnership Agreement" of 6th January 2025.

You are, no doubt, receiving similar correspondence from fellow Members of Parliament on behalf of their constituents.

Constituents are very worried about the current situation facing NHS Accident and Emergency departments, hospitals, primary care services and other parts of the service. They are calling for the Government to empower Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and NHS trusts to buy up private hospital facilities, rather than expanding the role of the private sector. I agree with them. This type of initiative would help to safeguard patient lives, support NHS staff and make our NHS fit for the future.

I would be grateful to hear of any measures that your office is taking to empower NHS Trusts to bring currently outsourced services back into the national health service when their contracts end. Research from "We Own It" shows that 94% of current outsourcing contracts for services the NHS could deliver will expire within this Parliament.

I note that the Partnership Agreement encourages commissioners to enter long-term contractual relationships with independent sector providers, rather than simply making short-term use of spare private sector capacity to address waiting lists. This shift risks locking the NHS into long-term financial commitments that divert funding away from public healthcare services and into private profits, making it harder to invest in expanding NHS capacity for the future.

Given that 94% of current outsourcing contracts for services the NHS could deliver are due to expire within this Parliament, I would be grateful to hear what measures your office is taking to ensure NHS Trusts and ICBs are supported to bring these services back in-house rather than extending reliance on private providers.



Ellie Chowns MP
Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Please can you also clarify what additional funding has been allocated to cover the costs of increased private sector spending, or whether ICBs will be forced to reallocate resources from existing NHS services? Keeping our NHS publicly owned and properly funded is a priority for my constituents, who are clear that healthcare should be run in the public interest, not for private profit.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie Chowns MP
Adrian Ramsay MP
Carla Denyer MP
Sian Berry MP