



Chancellor of the Exchequer
 The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
 HM Treasury Unit
 1 Horse Guards Rd
 Westminster
 London
 SW1A 2HQ

6 March 2020

Dear Chancellor,

The upcoming budget is an opportunity for the Government to make inroads into its manifesto promise to “invest in preventing disease as well as curing it”. The current Government response to COVID19 underlines the importance of a strong health and care system. Now is the time for the Government to recognise the sheer scale of the challenges facing our NHS and social care services. We have an ageing society living with multiple health conditions, growing health and economic inequalities, an NHS and social care workforce at breaking point, a tired NHS estate and a fragile social care system.

Additional NHS funding announced by the last Prime Minister was a welcome boost, but this will only keep the system ticking over. This Government has an opportunity to create a healthier, happier and fairer well-led society where health and wellbeing are at the centre of all policies. From education to employment and housing, transport to the environment; a legacy that would be remembered for generations to come.

This will only be achieved through sustained investment into the health and social care system however. We are calling on the Government to use this budget to invest in public health and social care. The Local Government Association puts the Adult Social Care funding gap at £3.6 billion by 2024/25 and the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation calculates that public health similarly needs an extra £3.2 billion.

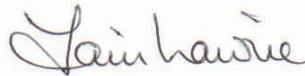
The NHS does not operate in isolation. It is part of a wider health and care ecosystem, and the Government must recognise that unless we invest in all parts of the system, plans for truly integrated care will never be realised. This would mean patients being failed, and demand on the NHS continuing to grow in an unmanaged way. The time to invest is now.

We urge you to seize the opportunity to create a healthier and more prosperous nation.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Donal O'Donoghue
Registrar
Royal College of Physicians



Dr Iain Lawrie
President
Association for Palliative Medicine
of Great Britain & Ireland



Dr Dinesh Nagi
Chairman
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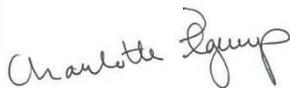
Professor David Burn
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Professor David Cunningham
Chair
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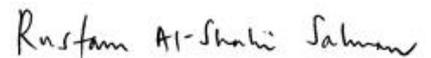
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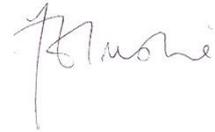
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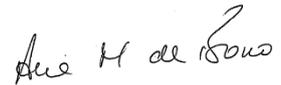
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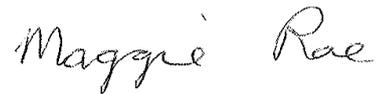
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