



ROYAL COLLEGE  
of PHYSICIANS  
of EDINBURGH



ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS AND  
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW



THE ROYAL COLLEGE  
OF SURGEONS OF  
EDINBURGH

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Prime Minister  
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London  
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**14 May 2018**

Dear *Prime Minister*,

### **Multi-year funding settlement for the NHS**

We write as Presidents of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow on behalf of our Fellows and Members throughout the UK. Together we represent over 50,000 medical professionals working in all parts of the UK and across the world. A significant proportion of our membership works in the NHS in England, and they will be particularly interested in your recent comments at the Liaison Committee meeting on 27 March, regarding a multi-year funding settlement for the NHS.

We note your comment, in particular, that in advance of next year's spending review, the Government will come forward with a long-term plan to be developed in conjunction with leaders of the NHS, clinicians and health experts. As we understand it, the Government will provide a multi-year funding settlement in support of the plan, consistent with its fiscal rules and balanced approach, but ensuring that the NHS can cope with the rising demand ahead of the Spending Review. We would be grateful if you could provide an outline of this plan, as well as information about how the Government proposes to involve leaders within the NHS, clinicians and health experts.

In that regard, we would like to take this opportunity to repeat the call in our letter to you dated 31 January 2017, for the UK Government to set up a working group involving the Royal Colleges, healthcare practitioners, patients, the public, and politicians alike. This group would be briefed to find solutions to alleviate the pressures faced across the NHS, and would be consulted on any multi-year funding settlement for the NHS.

We also note your comment that there are serious cost and demand pressures on the NHS, in part caused by significant areas of new demand, such as mental health services, and that those in turn put pressure on the workforce. We, and those who we represent, are fully aware of these pressures and the impact that they are having on patient care, workforce morale and the time that clinicians have to care, to train, and to research. We would be grateful if the Government outlined what assessment it has made of these new demands, and would welcome dialogue with you and your officials about the possible ways to ease such pressures.

Finally, we recognise that you have recently placed emphasis on spreading the excellence that we see in some parts of the NHS across the whole of the organisation. In that regard, we would be grateful to know whether the Government has considered existing models as a guide, and if so, which models? The pressures on unscheduled care across the UK are indeed significant, and while health systems in the four nations are increasingly divergent, all would benefit from an information sharing programme. We would like to see a genuine dialogue and sharing of best practice between the UK Government, the devolved Governments and those delivering care to create an environment that supports all those working within the NHS, and improves the care delivered to patients across the UK.

We look forward to your response, which we shall share with our Fellows and Members.

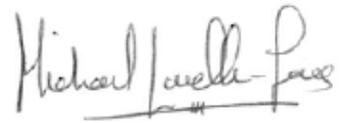
Yours sincerely,



**Professor Derek Bell**  
**President, RCPE**



**Professor David Galloway**  
**President, RCPSG**



**Professor Michael Lavelle-Jones**  
**President, RCSEd**