

April 2017

Dear Constituent

### NHS Funding

Thank you for contacting me about the progress made in delivering the NHS's own plan for its future, the Five Year Forward View.

I recognise your concerns and that is why Ministers are committed to making the NHS the safest and best healthcare service in the world. The Forward View sets out how the NHS will meet the challenges of an ageing population head on and deliver further improvements for patients in key priorities - better cancer treatment, expanding GP access, and transforming mental health care.

It is encouraging that standards have risen in recent years - ten years ago just under half of patients waited more than 18 weeks for treatment, now only around one in ten does. This is testament to the outstanding work of NHS staff, supported by the Government's additional investment of £10 billion for our NHS.

It is important to ensure that those who are most in need of urgent treatment are prioritised and that routine treatment can be delivered quickly. Progress continues to be made and in 2016 the NHS carried out more than 1.9 million more operations compared to 2010.

To support the NHS in delivering this plan, there are now 11,600 more doctors and 13,400 more nurses on our wards to help reduce avoidable harm and ensure that patient care remains a priority.

Yours sincerely



Richard Benyon