



Moving forward on NHS pay

**Please reply via Sara Gorton
s.gorton@unison.co.uk**

Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

By email

Dear Prime Minister,

You will have seen the announcement from Scottish Government yesterday evening of a proposed NHS pay award.

NHS employees and other health and care workers across the UK will look closely at this situation too.

When NHS staff in England contrast the Scottish offer with what you have proposed for them, they will feel increasingly bewildered by how you are choosing to treat them. One week today is the start of the new financial year when the most recent NHS deal will expire. Staff across the UK are expecting a new pay award to be in place for 1 April 2021, but your government has imposed serious delays to the process.

Last July, we wrote to the Chancellor asking to begin early discussions between NHS unions and government on a well-deserved and significant pay award but these were not forthcoming. We entered the Pay Review Body (PRB) process in good faith and submitted our evidence at the start of this year. Yet the government has deliberately delayed its decision to June or July.

When the UK government's submission to the PRB came to light three weeks ago, you will recall the response from NHS staff and the public. The majority of people – irrespective of their political affiliation – believe the 1% NHS pay proposal to be unfair. As representatives of 1.3 million NHS staff, we urge you to reconsider your proposals urgently.

At your recent Budget, and in the days since, you have demonstrated the government's priorities for public expenditure lie elsewhere. In the middle of pandemic, this has sent an extremely damaging message to NHS staff at the worst possible time. On behalf of NHS staff, we are available to discuss this with you and your officials and help all sides to identify a new way forward at the earliest opportunity.



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Yours sincerely,

Sara Gorton
Chair

Hannah Reed
Secretary

Jon Skewes
Treasurer

On behalf of NHS Staff Council (Staff Side) trade unions

cc. Rt. Hon. Matt Hancock MP