

9th March 2016

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about the National Health Service Bill, which is a Private Members' Bill.

I believe that the proposed Bill would be an unnecessary upheaval and the wrong approach to improving the NHS. You may be interested to know that an authoritative comparative study of the performance of different national health systems, published by The Commonwealth Fund, concluded that the NHS is the best health service in the world.

This does endorse the Government's decision to modernise the NHS, ensuring more money is spent on patient care rather than administration, and to invest over £7 billion of extra funding in real terms in the health service during the last Parliament. There are now 1.3 million more operations being delivered each year compared to 2010, over 10,700 more doctors and almost 11,800 more nurses. The Government has pledged to increase investment in the current Parliament with over £10 billion of additional NHS spending in real terms per year by 2020/21. This will mean spending on the NHS will rise in every year in real terms.

Giving operational control for the day-to-day running of services to doctors was the right decision as they have the best understanding of their patients and local needs, and they are best placed to commission local health services. Nonetheless, the Government has always been clear that Ministers are responsible for the NHS.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma MP