

Specialised Healthcare Alliance  
Hudson House  
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Tuesday, 28 April 2015

*To you all,*

Thank you for your recent letter, regarding specialised healthcare.

This is such an important issue for so many people. The organisations that you represent do incredible work on behalf of patients affected by conditions such as cancer, Cystic Fibrosis, HIV, and many others. This work is vital – and often life-saving – and I warmly commend you for it.

As you know, protecting and improving our National Health Service is a personal priority for me. We can only have a strong NHS with a strong economy. That's how we've increased the NHS budget by £7.3 billion over this Parliament. And we have now committed to increase health spending in real terms by a minimum of £8 billion in the next Parliament. This will mean a better NHS for everyone who needs it. I'm sure I can count on your support for this significant additional investment in our health service.

You raised the specific issue of commissioning for specialised services. For people with rare conditions, their families, carers and clinicians, having access to the latest and most effective treatments is critical. I am absolutely committed to ensuring that patients with rare diseases have access to the latest and most effective treatments that represent value to the NHS and deliver benefits to patients.

As you know, NHS England is consulting on a proposed set of principles which will underpin the future decision-making process for investment in specialised services. In conducting a full public consultation, NHS England is seeking to ensure that the principles for making decisions on investing in specialised services are well informed, evidence-led and in line with the expectations of patients and the public.

In past months, Department of Health Ministers have worked closely with NHS England on a range of specialised commissioning issues. If I am Prime Minister after the election, the government I lead will continue to work with NHS England to ensure that the new policy development process is robust, efficient, transparent, fair and predictable.

I hope that this is helpful. I know that we share a deep passion and commitment to our health service, and I look forward to working with you all in the future in support of our shared aims.

*Yours sincerely,  
David Cameron*