



## Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

[www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk](http://www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk)

### **NHS Professionals and EDM 152**

Thank you for contacting me about NHS Professionals and Early Day Motion (EDM) 152.

Members of the Government, Parliamentary Private Secretaries and Government Whips do not, by convention, sign Early Day Motions, as doing so is likely to breach the Ministerial Code's rules on collective responsibility. As a Government Whip, I will not, therefore, be signing EDM 152.

NHS Professionals is the largest single supplier of flexible staffing to the NHS. The NHS needs to maintain an adaptable workforce, with adequate supplies of temporary staff, in order to meet the evolving needs of the health service.

The Government wants to maintain a healthy supply of permanent and flexible labour to the NHS, while tackling agency staffing costs, and ensuring maximum value for the taxpayer. I am encouraged to note that agency spending fell by £700 million last year. NHS Professionals helps by saving £70 million a year through supplying staff to hospitals at more affordable rates.

I would like to assure you that the Government's aim is always to improve patient care. I am sure its actions to reduce agency spending will be focused on that objective, and on ensuring every pound of the NHS budget is spend as efficiently as possible.

Due to the commercially sensitive nature of this process, the Government will not make any specific comment on this issue, however, I will continue to follow this matter with interest, and to play my part in ensuring that our NHS has the staff it needs to provide the best possible care.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP