



## Craig Whittaker MP

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### **Response to National Health Service Bill (Formerly the NHS Reinstatement Bill) – March 2017**

Thank you for contacting me about the National Health Service Bill.

I believe that the proposed Bill would be an unnecessary upheaval and the wrong approach to improving the NHS.

The NHS today helps more people with higher quality care than ever before in its history. Each day, compared to 2010, the service is performing 4,400 more operations, seeing 2,500 more people in A&E within four hours and providing 1,400 more people with access to mental health services.

Despite tight public finances, the Government has actively supported the NHS's own plan for the future. That is why it is providing the additional £10 billion of investment per annum in real terms by 2020/21 - compared to 2014/15 - requested to fund a transformation in care. It will also ensure that by 2020, everyone will be able to access GP services at evenings and weekends.

The Government has already delivered over 11,800 more doctors since 2010 and Health Education England projects increasing the supply of NHS staff by 80,000 by 2020. This will ensure that frontline staff are properly supported in the delivery of 7-day services.

In my view, 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. Nonetheless the Government has always been clear that Ministers are responsible for the NHS, and I am proud of its performance in challenging circumstances.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP