



Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

By email

17 September 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

Independent sector support for NHS recovery and renewal

The Independent Healthcare Providers Network (IHPN) is the membership body for independent sector healthcare. Our members provide care to millions of NHS patients each year in every community in the country. Independent providers are an integral part of the NHS, whether in primary, community, diagnostic, clinical insourcing, or hospital services. There are more than 1,700 independent providers of primary and community NHS services alone. Each year, independent providers deliver millions of diagnostic tests and scans to NHS patients. And independent hospital providers are now responsible for around one in five NHS operations.

The Darzi report you commissioned is a watershed moment for the NHS. It sets out the stark reality that for too many people, too often the NHS is not as good as it should be, with major consequences for individuals and the economy.

On behalf of all IHPN members¹ I am writing to publicly affirm our commitment to work alongside you and colleagues in the NHS to build an NHS that is fit for the future. Despite satisfaction with the NHS being at record lows, the public remains overwhelmingly committed to an NHS model which is tax-funded and free at the point of use to patients. We are committed to playing our part for in recovering and renewing the service the long-term so that it provides patients and the public with the best possible treatment and support.

We believe that we should have high ambitions for how far and how quickly the NHS can be improved and we stand ready to work with you to develop your new 10 Year NHS Plan. We are positive and optimistic about what can be achieved, including through unlocking the capital, capacity and capability that is available in independent healthcare to drive change in the NHS.

We have previously set out how we think the [independent sector can contribute to improving the NHS](#), including by offering patients more choice and control over their treatment, and through making sure that the NHS has access to the most innovative models of care. We also believe that the sector has a key role in developing and delivering a new generation of healthcare facilities dedicated to treating NHS patients.

¹ <https://www.ihpn.org.uk/our-members/>



The Darzi Review must be a turning point in the right direction for the NHS – setting us back on track to deliver a health service that is better than ever. Independent healthcare is a crucial part of that service, and we are ready to get started.

Yours sincerely,

David Hare

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hare', is placed within a light grey rectangular box.

David Hare MBE
Chief Executive
Independent Healthcare Providers Network (IHPN)

CC Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive, NHS England
Paul Corrigan, Special Adviser on 10 Year Health Plan
Special Advisers