

From the Permanent Secretary  
Sir Chris Wormald



## Department of Health & Social Care

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Dear Chair,

### **PAC Hearing: Managing NHS Backlogs and Waiting Times**

At the above hearing which took place on 28 November 2022, I committed to write to the Committee to answer the following questions raised in relation to adult social care: *What does the government mean when it says 200,000 more care packages will be delivered over the next 2 years? What is the size and nature of the care packages?*

The illustrative figure of an estimated 200,000 care packages has been used by HM Treasury to contextualise how many care packages the funding announced in the Autumn Statement could equate to.

HM Treasury arrived at this number by dividing the additional funding made available through the Autumn Statement – up to £7.5 billion – by the cost of an illustrative average long-term care package. This average cost is based on long-term projections of adult social care demand, alongside forecasts of economic determinants on pay and inflation.

There will be significant variation in the size and type of different people's care packages. This will depend on various factors, such as whether they are receiving domiciliary care, residential care, or nursing care. Local Authorities are best placed to identify and support the care needs of their local populations and, for example, may decide to prioritise the acuity of care rather than the quantity required.

Yours sincerely,

**SIR CHRIS WORMALD**  
**PERMANENT SECRETARY**