



Department of Health & Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
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25 May 2023

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to provide an update on the commitment to deliver 40 new hospitals by 2030. Today I will be making an announcement in Parliament and am pleased to share that the Government confirms for the first time the New Hospital Programme is now expected to be backed by over £20 billion of investment in hospital infrastructure to deliver on this promise.

I am delighted that work at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care and Royal Liverpool Hospital is complete and open to patients. Brighton Trauma, Tertiary and Training at Royal Sussex County Hospital, the Dyson Cancer Centre, Salford Royal, Northgate Hospital and Midland Metropolitan Hospital are in construction, with construction starting at Oriel Eye Hospital shortly.

We have also made progress on our national standardised approach to hospital delivery, Hospital 2.0. To make new hospitals fit for the future, Hospital 2.0 involves using digital technology, sustainability, and modern methods of construction to drive efficiencies of up to 25% compared to traditional methods, decreasing overall development timescales and costs.

Work is underway across all hospitals in the New Hospital Programme to prepare the sites in advance of main construction or to progress through the necessary stages to finalise plans. We have identified a small number of existing schemes who are in the earlier stages of development and may face delivery challenges in completing all construction work by 2030. We will continue to work intensively with these trusts to progress as quickly as possible, also as a result, other schemes will be delivered by 2030. This includes steps such as needing to find new sites, additional land or expanding the scope of services and potential keyworker accommodation to be built on site.

Since the initial commitment was made, an independent assessment has brought to light severe safety risks relating to large NHS hospitals constructed all or mostly using Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) – a type of concrete used in the mid-20th century that is now failing. These hospitals with RAAC throughout their estate have been assessed as not safe to operate beyond 2030 and NHS England has requested work at these sites is prioritised. In agreement with HM Treasury, I am announcing the full rebuild of these hospitals which were not already part of the New Hospital Programme, to complete by 2030.

We are also continuing to deliver new hospitals funded from wider capital budgets, including new mental health hospitals as part of our commitment to eradicate mental health dormitories and improve care for mental health inpatients. Mossley Hill Hospital,

Kingsway Hospital, Chesterfield Royal Hospital and the Abraham Cowley Unit at St Peters Hospital are all in construction and will complete within the next two years. We are also investing in over 70 hospital upgrades and many more major new facilities such as community diagnostic centres, surgical hubs and treatment centres across England to improve NHS buildings and service delivery.

We recognise the significant interest from NHS Trusts following the competition to identify further hospitals to join the New Hospital Programme. We have listened to their calls to move to a more sustainable and consistent approach to investment in new health infrastructure. While no further schemes beyond the five hospitals with significant RAAC issues will be invited to join the programme at this time, new schemes will be considered through a rolling programme of capital investment in hospital infrastructure to secure the building of new hospitals beyond 2030. The government will set out robust plans here at future Spending Reviews/fiscal events, including when and how it will seek to invite further projects to join the programme from 2030 onwards and other major capital investment opportunities beyond the New Hospital Programme.

From 2022/23 to 2024/25, we have dedicated a record £12.6 billion to upgrade and modernise NHS buildings. This represents a significant opportunity for trusts and system partners across the country to work together to make the best use of available capital funding. We therefore encourage you and your hospital trusts to continue to engage with your Integrated Care Systems to explore the options available to them within local investment plans.

We will deliver 40 hospitals by 2030 and remain committed to delivery of all schemes that have been announced as part of the New Hospital Programme. My department will be sharing further details about local plans to all MPs with a new hospital scheme in or near their constituency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP