

## CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



### HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

September 2016

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs).

The NHS today helps more people to receive higher quality care than ever before. The Government is backing the NHS with an additional £10 billion per annum investment by the end of this Parliament and the employment of record numbers of doctors and nurses.

Nonetheless, the NHS faces substantial challenges, and only a Conservative Government, which knows how to build a strong economy, can possibly help meet these through a combination of increased financial commitment and bold reforms.

Labour has already shown that the NHS is not safe in their hands. Not only can they not be trusted to deliver the strong economy which funds our NHS, but they have clearly opposed the vital reforms which will improve things for patients and the taxpayer. These include the opening up of nurse training to thousands more people and the creation of services which keep people well at home rather than trapped in hospital.

The Five Year Forward View, produced by the NHS itself, sets out its own vision for the future. Its vision sees the NHS providing more care closer to home, prioritising prevention and empowering citizens with the tools and information to manage their own care.

In each of the 44 local areas, commissioners, providers and local authorities have come together to decide how to improve services and realise this vision. Far from being secret, STPs were publicly announced by NHS England in December 2015 and these plans were not about making cuts, but ensuring that increased resources for the NHS leads directly to better care for patients.

First draft plans have been submitted to NHS England who are scrutinising them and providing feedback and a more formal process of local consultation is expected to begin later this year. Only plans which are ambitious, realistic and set out a clear case for how patients will benefit will be approved. The plans will then be published with full public engagement and consultation and no changes to the services people currently receive will be made without this.



Furthermore, the Government is committed to ensuring full transparency and accountability about how the plans are being implemented.

I will try my best to attend the Opposition Day debate but unfortunately, due to Parliamentary commitments, there is always the possibility that I may not be able to attend. However, in the meantime I will of course continue to follow developments very closely.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**