



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

July 2017

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about NHS staffing and recruitment.

Ensuring that we have a well-staffed NHS, caring for patients seven days a week is of utmost importance to me. The staff in the NHS provide our country with an invaluable service, and I believe that they should be well-supported accordingly.

I know that independent pay review bodies make their recommendations to government for fair levels of public sector pay. I recognise the difficulty that public sector pay restraint has caused; however, I must reiterate the estimates from the Office for Budget Responsibility that limiting public sector pay rises has protected roughly 200,000 jobs, and contributed to record levels of employment. I am happy to say that there are currently record numbers of nurses working in the NHS: since May 2010, numbers of nurses and health visitors have increased by over 4,900, with an additional 52,000 in training.

I am encouraged by the latest results from the NHS staff survey, which saw record levels of employee engagement, improvements in wellbeing on last year; 92 per cent of staff feel trusted to do their jobs; and, 90 per cent of staff feel that their organisation takes positive action on health and wellbeing.

I recognise that leaving the EU may impact staffing in the NHS. Instead of relying on clinical staff from abroad, I agree with the Secretary of State for Health that we must increase the numbers of home-grown NHS staff. I fully support plans to increase nursing, midwifery and allied health pre-registration training positions by up to 10,000 by 2020, and broaden routes into nursing through the expansion of Nursing Associates and the introduction of Nurse Degree Apprenticeships from September 2017, which will open up careers in nursing to people from all backgrounds.

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

Yours faithfully,

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

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY