



Department
of Health &
Social Care

The Government's 2020-2021 mandate to NHS England and NHS Improvement

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This document includes the Government's statutory annual mandate to NHS England.

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 13A of the National Health Service Act 2006.

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Foreword from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

The UK, like the rest of the world, is facing the unprecedented challenge of managing the threat of Covid-19. Given the exceptional circumstances, I am setting NHS England and NHS Improvement a very brief mandate for 2020-21 to provide important clarity for the system about the headline objectives that we need NHS support to achieve at this difficult time. My intention is to replace this with a further mandate that takes account of the NHS's capacity to achieve our wider goals in light of developments with Covid-19, once the virus has been effectively managed.

The Government had already guaranteed an additional £34 billion additional funding for the NHS by the end of this Parliament. We have now further guaranteed that the NHS will receive whatever funding is necessary on top of this to ensure it can tackle Covid-19 effectively. Our committed NHS staff, led by NHS England and NHS Improvement, are already doing everything possible to support the Government in this and I thank them on behalf of Government, and on behalf of everyone in England.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt".

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

The mandate

Objectives

1. There are five objectives on which we have consulted NHS England and NHS Improvement, along with Healthwatch England, as required by the NHS Act 2006:
 - Support the Government to delay and mitigate the spread of Covid-19 and to contribute to research and innovation in prevention and treatment, whilst ensuring that everyone affected by it receives the very best possible NHS treatment;
 - Ensure progress towards the effective implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan, including the commitments and trajectories set out in the National Implementation Plan and People Plan to be published later in the year and maintain and enhance public confidence in the NHS;
 - With support from Government, help ensure delivery of its wider priorities, which include manifesto commitments to further improve the experience of NHS patients, working with local government to support integration and the sustainability of social care through the Better Care Fund, and contributing to planning for life outside the EU once the current transition period ends;
 - Deliver the public health functions that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has delegated to NHS England to exercise under section 7A of the NHS Act 2006;
 - Share all information with Government that is necessary to enable progress against this mandate to be effectively monitored, and to support the Secretary of State in fulfilling wider statutory functions, including in respect of Covid-19.
2. The first objective on supporting the Government to manage Covid-19 will be the main focus. This will need to be supported by timely and improved information sharing, in line with the fifth objective, to ensure that the Government's response can continue to be informed by the latest data. Expectations on the amount of progress to be made in delivering the other objectives during 2020-21 will take account of this.
3. In seeking to meet these objectives, NHS England and NHS Improvement will need to comply with their delegated responsibilities as set out in Managing Public Money and in their Framework Agreements with the Department of Health and Social Care. Their statutory obligations set out in the NHS Act 2006 and other legislation also apply.

Funding

4. In accordance with Section 13A of the NHS Act 2006, NHS England's revenue and capital limits for 2020-21 are set out in this section along with its revenue budget based on the Long Term Plan funding settlement for each year up to and including 2023-24. They are further explained in financial directions to NHS England published alongside the mandate. NHS England capital funding figures and NHS Improvement revenue and capital figures are provided to 2020-21. Figures for later years are subject to future funding decisions.
5. Further funding to deliver manifesto commitments was agreed at Budget 2020 and is only partially reflected in these figures. The Chancellor has outlined the total funding available to deliver manifesto commitments and DHSC is working with NHS England and NHS Improvement on costed delivery plans. The total budget figures do include an additional £250 million for primary care in 2020-21.
6. Additional funding the Government is providing specifically for essential work on Covid-19 is also not fully reflected. The Government will ensure that public services receive the funding they need to respond to the outbreak as the situation develops. Her Majesty's Treasury has created a £5 billion contingency fund to ensure the NHS and other public services have the resources they need. It will fund pressures in the NHS, support local authorities to manage the impact on social care and to support vulnerable people, and help deal with pressures on other public services. The funding is available immediately. In these exceptional circumstances, it remains essential that public money is spent with care, and that interventions are targeted, timely, and time-limited.
7. The Chancellor has said he will go further than the £5 billion if required. As is usual practice, a revised mandate and financial directions will be published at the end of the financial year including any changes resulting from this and any other in-year funding decisions.

NHS England

Revenue budget (£m, cash terms)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Long Term Settlement	120,807	127,007	133,283	139,990	148,467
Total budget (including net transfers post-settlement)	123,377	129,681	136,134	142,841	151,318

Capital budget (£m, cash terms)	2019-20	2020-21
Total budget	260	305

8. Adjustments included in NHS England's total revenue budget set out above relate to additional funding for increased employer contributions to the NHS pension scheme as well as GP indemnity, NHS Supply Chain and transfers with public health bodies.

NHS Improvement

Revenue budget (£m, cash terms)	2019-20	2020-21
Total budget excluding depreciation	232	232

Capital budget (£m, cash terms)	2019-20	2020-21
Total budget	6	6

9. NHS Improvement's revenue budget set out above includes transfers from NHS England and the transfer of the Leadership Academy to NHS Improvement in 2019-20 but excludes funding for the Graduate Management Training Scheme expansion provided in 2019-20. Budgets are indicative and subject to business planning.
10. The Government has set five financial tests against which the implementation of the Long Term Plan will be assessed. As progress against these tests is critical for putting the NHS back onto a sustainable financial path, the Government remains committed to the tests and expects that the NHS will resume reporting against them after the pandemic.

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