



Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS

19 July 2016

Dear Jeremy

CONGRATULATIONS – AND RENEWING THE DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL VOICES

My congratulations on being re-appointed as Secretary of State for Health. After all the turbulence of recent weeks, it is good that the world of health and care will continue to benefit from your accumulated experience at the Department of Health and your commitment to improving the safety and quality of care.

I wrote last week to the Prime Minister, and I attach a copy of that letter. We consider that there is a need - and under the new administration now also an important opportunity - to revisit the programme of health and care reform currently in train. National Voices and our members would urge the following:

- A fresh look at funding for health in the round, including the NHS, public health, social care and the contribution of the voluntary and community sector, in recognition that the 2015 spending review settlement increasingly does not look adequate to the challenges;
- Greater energy and commitment devoted to preventing ill health, promoting both physical and mental health, narrowing health inequalities; promoting community resilience and attending to the health of children and young people;
- A step change in the degree of meaningful involvement of patients, carers and communities in decisions about health and care – which remains far too weak at all levels;
- Ensuring that health is a key strand in the Brexit preparations, particularly to mitigate the very worrying risks for the current and future health and care workforce, and for international collaboration on public health, research and innovation.

Brexit issues apart, we feel this is not about new priorities so much as following through on existing commitments in ways that will maximise the value for patients and communities.

National Voices will continue to offer our services as a strategic partner to the Department and its arm's length bodies, and as a conduit for the voices of patients and the voluntary sector in health and care.

We continue to support work in particular on integrated care, supported self-management, patient empowerment and the patient voice in innovation. We are contributing to redesigning the strategic engagement of the Department with the health voluntary sector following the VCSE review.

The People and Communities Board which I chair as part of the Five Year Forward View governance arrangements is a resource which I would encourage the Department to draw on.

Meanwhile, I would welcome the opportunity to renew our dialogue with you, including your new ministerial team, and to discuss the issues raised in this letter. I would therefore like to invite you and your colleagues to an engagement with National Voices members at a time convenient to you in the autumn. We will follow up with your private office.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeremy Taylor
Chief Executive