



Department
of Health

*From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health*

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Mr Jerry Cope
NHS Pay Review Body
Office of Manpower Economics
Fleetbank House
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22 August 2016

Dear Mr Cope,

I am writing as a follow up to the letter you received from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Greg Hands, on 13 July confirming the Government's approach to pay awards in the public sector for 2017-18.

I am grateful for the invaluable work you and your members carry out on behalf of all those that participate in the pay review process. The government has made it clear that pay restraint in the public sector continues to be a crucial part of its plans for the continued prudent management of public finances to help support long term planning and to help protect jobs. I appreciate that this continues to present challenges, but your expertise, and impartial and independent judgement are vital as employers and staff respond to the unprecedented challenges facing the NHS.

In his letter to you, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury asked that you consider how an award might be targeted to support recruitment and retention.

We recognise the importance of pay investment supporting recruitment and retention of staff within the NHS. You have previously highlighted to us the importance of developing better measures that would enable you to take an evidence-based view of recruitment and retention issues and assess whether there is a case for targeting pay investment. My department will set out the progress we are making towards giving you that evidence in the autumn.

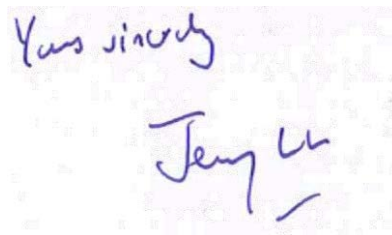


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We welcome the NHS Pay Review Body's recommendations.

As always, whilst your remit covers the whole of the United Kingdom, it is for each administration to make its own decisions on its approach to this year's pay round and to communicate this to you directly.



Yours sincerely
Jeremy Hunt

JEREMY HUNT