



Simon Stevens
Chief Executive
NHS England
NHSE Skipton House
80 London Road
London, SE1 6LH

Derby & Derbyshire Local Medical Committee
Heritage Gate, Norman House, Ground Floor
Friar Gate, Derby
DE1 1NU

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Dear Mr Stevens

I am writing on behalf of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee to express my disbelief and extreme disappointment at your recent performance in front of the Public Accounts Committee. The hearing concerned the PCSE contract between NHSE and Capita and was held on Monday 18th June 2018 and the evidence was published on 25th June 2018.

While the GP experience of PCSE has been and in many places still is dire and unacceptably poor, it was actually a small comfort from reading the evidence that the new CEO of Capita Jonathan Lewis has now apologised to GPs and Parliament and accepted Capita's responsibility for their failings. Whether this results in them delivering an acceptable service to hard pressed practices for the rest of the contract period remains to be seen.

That however is not my main concern and reason for writing to you. The first part of the questioning to you concerned the announcement, made on the morning of the hearing, by the Prime Minister about the increased funding for the NHS. You were in front of the PAC to give evidence about an issue which had a serious impact on the ability of general practice (plus other primary care providers) to deliver a service to their patients. Yet not once during the first 29 questions which covered the funding increase did you see fit to even utter the words general practice. Regardless of your intention in my opinion that sends a very strong message to the overstretched and hardworking GPs and their staff across England that despite all of the rhetoric the very senior leadership of NHSE has no consideration for general practice.

At first I thought that must have been an oversight on your part but the evidence you then went on to give about PCSE only confirms the view. During the remaining 118 questions you again fail to even mention the words general practice. You also fail to apologise for the very significant failings of NHSE that are contained within the National Audit Office report and appear to try and lay the entire blame at the feet of Capita. Again a complete snub for general practice.

However the coup de grace comes when you talk about the £60m savings that NHSE have made over the existing term of the contract. In your answer to Q115 you appear happy for the other party to stand a £140m loss while you reap the savings, which conveys a complete lack of partnership working with other contractors and in the brave new world of joined up care this does not bode well for how you will treat much smaller independent contractors such as GPs.



The biggest insult was your comment in answer to Q78 that these £60m savings could fund 30,000 more operations rather than be reinvested in general practice which has borne the brunt of the problems from this procurement. Simply unbelievable and if this illustrates the real NHSE agenda then the exodus of hard pressed GPs who receive little or no meaningful public support from your organisation will only worsen.

I fear this is actually a tacit admission that NHSE are solely focussed on secondary care and do not really support general practice. I am very keen to hear from you in defence of your evidence to the PAC and the issues that I have raised.

Yours sincerely

David Gibbs
Chief Operating Officer
Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee

