

Rt. Hon George Osborne MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Academy of Medical Royal  
Colleges  
10 Dallington Street  
London EC1V 0DB

T + 44 (0) 207 490 6810  
F + 44 (0) 207 490 6811

[www.aomrc.org.uk](http://www.aomrc.org.uk)  
[academy@aomrc.org.uk](mailto:academy@aomrc.org.uk)

22 October 2015

Dear Chancellor,

### **Public Health Funding Cuts**

Our organisations collectively represent the professional interests of the UK's 220,000 doctors, 300,000 nurses, health service leaders, public health specialists and local authority leaders.

We welcome this Government's commitment to increasing NHS spending in real terms by £8bn between now and 2020 and to back implementation of the Five Year Forward View, (FYFV) which you refer to as 'the Stevens Plan'. However, it is universally accepted that to achieve the objectives set out in FYFV we will need to embark on a 'major upgrade' in prevention and public health. As we enter the final consideration of the Spending Review arguments we wanted to reinforce our concern about the decision to cut £200 million from this year's public health grant to local authorities, which was announced in June this year.

This cut will have a direct impact on people and communities who rely on this funding, and it will have a direct impact on the NHS which will have to pick up the pieces by treating preventable ill health. The Faculty of Public Health's own analysis suggests the eventual 'knock-on' cost to the NHS could well be in excess of £1bn. By any measure then, the planned move is a false economy.

On top of this, many of the services delivered through the public health spend via Local Authorities fund clinical NHS care. Cutting this funding reduces NHS revenues so it is misleading to suggest that the NHS budget is being protected.

By reversing the proposed cuts to the public health grant, and investing in prevention and public health in the Spending Review, the Government should be able to reduce the wider budget deficit, which you have suggested is the aim of the proposed cuts. Reversing the proposed cuts will relieve pressure on our overburdened NHS, tackle inequalities and improve people's health and wellbeing.

On the 15 September, your colleague Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, the Secretary of State for Health, told the Health Select Committee that: "...we have to be very careful that what we

*are asking for is a genuine efficiency saving and not something that actually will impact on the delivery of services”.*

As representatives from across the health and care community, we have made submissions to your officials that make the case for investment in this area as part of the future health and care system. Through this letter, we urge you to consider very seriously the position we have outlined, to reverse these cuts in your forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review and give a clear commitment that no further cuts will be made to public health budgets in future years.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Dame Sue Bailey OBE DBE, Chair, **Academy of Medical Royal Colleges**



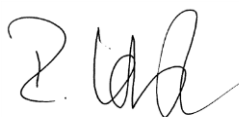
Professor John Ashton, President, **Faculty of Public Health**



Andrew Furber, President, **Association of Directors of Public Health**



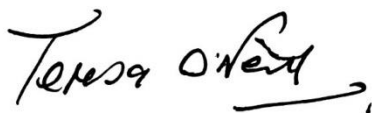
Mick Armstrong, Chair, **British Dental Association**



Rob Webster, Chief Executive, **NHS Confederation**



Graham Jukes, Chief Executive, **Chartered Institute of Environmental Health**



Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE, Leader, London Borough of Bexley and **London Councils** Portfolio Holder for Health



Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Chair Community Wellbeing Board, **Local Government Association**



Janet Davies FRCN, Chief Executive and General Secretary, **Royal College of Nursing**



Dr Jo Farrar, Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing and Chief Executive of Bath and North East Somerset, **Solace**



Paul Lincoln, CEO, **UK Health Forum**

Cc Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health

**The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges** is the voice of the medical profession on education, training and improving healthcare. Twenty two medical Royal Colleges and Faculties are members of the Academy, bringing together the views of their individual specialties to collectively influence and shape healthcare across the four nations of the UK.

**The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH)** is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DsPH) in the UK with the aim of maximising the effectiveness and impact of DsPH as Public Health leaders.

**The British Dental Association (BDA)** is the professional association and trade union for dentists in the UK. It represents dentists working in general practice, in community and hospital settings, in academia and research, and in the armed forces, and includes dental students.

**The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health** is a professional membership body, with around 9,500 members, dedicated to campaigning and improving health and wellbeing, as well as setting standards, accrediting courses and educating Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) across the public and private sectors.

**The NHS Confederation** represents 85 per cent of NHS providers and commissioners. The organisation has around 500 members across health and social care, including hospitals, community and mental health providers, ambulance trusts and independent sector organisations providing NHS care. It is the only membership body to bring together and speak on behalf of the whole NHS.

**The Faculty of Public Health (FPH)** is the standard setting body for specialists in public health in the United Kingdom. FPH is the professional home for more than 3,300 professionals working in public health.

**London Councils** represents London's 32 boroughs and the City of London. We are a cross-party organisation that works on behalf of all of our member authorities regardless of political persuasion.

**Local Government Association** is the national voice of local government, working with councils to support, promote and improve local government. The LGA is a politically-led, cross-party organisation that works on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government.

**The Royal College of Nursing (RCN)** is the voice of nursing across the UK and is the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. The RCN promotes their interests and those of their patients on a wide range of issues; helps shape healthcare policy and promotes excellence in practice.

**SOLACE** is the representative body for senior strategic managers working in the public sector in the UK. We are committed to promoting public sector excellence. We provide our members with opportunities for personal and professional development, and seek to influence debate around the future of public services to ensure that policy and legislation are informed by the experience and expertise of our members..

**The UK Health Forum** is a charitable alliance of professional and public organisations working to reduce the risk of avoidable non-communicable diseases by developing evidence-informed public health policy and supporting its implementation through advocacy and information.