Thank you to everyone who contacted me to let me know their concerns about the Government's 10 Year Plan for the NHS.

The Plan lacks fundamental details about how the Conservative Government intends to achieve the goals it has set itself, particularly around waiting times which are now at record levels and worsening. Just last year, the British Medical Journal published figures showing that the number of people waiting more than 18 weeks for NHS treatment increased 35% since the previous year. Record numbers of patients are not getting the cancer care that they need because the NHS is struggling more than ever, resulting in over 14,000 not seeing a cancer consultant within the two week maximum waiting period enshrined in the NHS constitution. Despite all of those problems, the Government's 10 Year Plan contains no strategy to reduce waiting times.

Labour are committed to properly funding and supporting our NHS and effectively allocating resources where they are needed in order to ensure that waiting time targets are met. As soon as Labour are in Government, we will get to work on reinvigorating the NHS after nearly a decade of Tory mismanagement. In the meantime though, I will continue to work with other Labour MPs to ensure that the Government is held to account on its shocking record on the NHS and do all we can to defend the NHS as we have always done.

Thank you all again for getting in touch. Please do not hesitate to do so again on this or any other issue.

Best wishes,

Richard Burden MP
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