

Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Chancellor

We are writing to express our utter dismay that HM Treasury would support any recommendation to the NHS PRB that a pay offer of just 1% for NHS staff be considered.

A year ago you promised that the NHS would have “whatever it needed” and this week you talked of, “an honest Budget.” The proposal of a 1% pay offer, not announced from the despatch box but smuggled out quietly in the days afterwards, fails the test of both honesty and fails to provide staff who have been on the very frontline of the pandemic the fair pay deal they need. Our members are the doctors, nurses, midwives, porters, healthcare assistants and more, already exhausted and distressed, who are also expected to go on caring for the millions of patients on waiting lists, coping with a huge backlog of treatment as well as caring for those with COVID-19. And that is of course if they stay working in the NHS; an offer like this is more than likely going to cause many to simply walk away in despair and this will have a terrible impact on patient care.

Health ministers have this morning made very clear that this is a decision that stems directly from HM Treasury and we are therefore writing to you directly to ask you to reconsider.

Health workers are the very people who have cared for more critically ill patients than was ever thought possible. They are working countless hours, many unpaid and at great personal risk because of their duty to the NHS and their fellow citizens. Now is when the Government should demonstrate that it recognises the contribution of a workforce that has literally kept this country alive for the past year during a global pandemic; we believe you now have a duty to them and we hope that you will make the right choice.

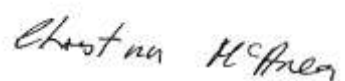
Yours sincerely,




Chaand Nagpaul CBE
BMA Council Chair



Dame Donna Kinnair DBE
RCN Chief Executive & General Secretary

Handwritten signature of Christina McAnea in black ink.

Christina McAnea
UNISON General Secretary

Handwritten signature of Gill Walton in black ink.

Gill Walton
RCM Chief Executive