Dear Meg,

Waiting times for elective and cancer care

At the Public Accounts Committee hearing on waiting times, I agreed to providing the committee further information on day admissions in relation to the referral to treatment (RTT) standard. My officials have undertaken additional analysis based on the most recently available data to identify the percentage of RTT pathways that are day cases.

For the latest 12-month period (up to February 2019) it is estimated that the percentage of RTT pathways where the first definitive treatment is a day case is 18.4 per cent.

The 3.5 per cent figure for overnight cases that I stated during the hearing relates to an estimation based on an earlier time period – between six and 11 months ago. The day case figure generated at that time would have been 18.5 per cent. Following the additional analysis conducted in response to this request, the percentage figure for overnight cases for the latest 12-month period (up to February 2019) is 3.4 per cent.

Yours sincerely

Ian Dalton CBE
Chief Executive, NHS Improvement