



Health and Social Care Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
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From Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Letter by email

8 January 2019

Dear Matt

Impact of the NHS Overseas Visitor Charging Regulations

I write on behalf of the Health and Social Care Committee following the [written Ministerial statement made on 12 December by the Minister of State for Health](#).

We note that the statement says that the review of the impact of amendments made to the NHS charging regulations in 2017 shows “no significant evidence that the 2017 Amendment Regulations have led to overseas visitors being deterred from treatment or that the changes have had an impact on public health”. However, we find ourselves unable to judge the accuracy of that conclusion for ourselves, since neither the review nor the evidence provided to it has been published.

We would be grateful therefore for a copy of the review, and of the evidence provided to it.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair of the Committee**



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
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POC_1163699

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
House of Commons
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15 February 2019

Dear Sarah,

Impact of the NHS Overseas Visitor Charging Regulations

Thank you for your letter of 8 January 2019 regarding the Department's review into the impact of the 2017 amendments to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations. The Written Ministerial statement made on 12 December 2018 summarised the key findings from this internal review and set out the actions the Department will be taking, including working with relevant stakeholders as appropriate. Some of these actions, such as updating national guidance to the NHS, have already been completed.

In undertaking the internal review, the Department called for evidence from interested stakeholders which included confidential information which was submitted on the basis it would not be published. I know you take confidentiality very seriously, so you will understand why we have therefore taken the proposed approach, and why it would be inappropriate to make further publications.

Yours ever,

MATT HANCOCK



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From Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair

Rt hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Letter by email

13 March 2019

Dear Matt

Thank you for your reply of 15 February to my letter of 8 January requesting sight of the review of the impact of amendments made to the NHS charging regulations in 2017, and of the evidence provided to it.

The Committee discussed your response at a recent meeting. We appreciate the need to protect the confidentiality of evidence submitted to the review on that understanding. We are therefore, in these circumstances, prepared to receive copies of that evidence confidentially, and not to publish it.

So far as the review itself is concerned, we appreciate that the need for confidentiality may apply to some of its contents, where it refers explicitly to evidence submitted in confidence, and we are prepared to discuss with you what redactions might need to be made to the review should the Committee decide to publish it. In the meantime, we renew our request for sight of the (unredacted) review.

We are sure that in making this request we do not need to remind you of the Government's commitment to being "as open and transparent as possible" with select committees, or of the presumption that requests for information from Select Committees will be agreed to, as recorded in paragraph 40 of the [Government's guidance for civil servants on giving evidence to select committees](#).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair of the Committee



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
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POC_1177626

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
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29 May 2019

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your further letter of 13 March 2019 regarding the Department's review into the impact of the 2017 amendments to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations. I note the committee's views regarding maintaining the confidentiality of the evidence that was submitted to the Department.

However, for the reasons I have previously outlined, we will not be releasing any further material relating to the review or the evidence submitted. We outlined in our Written Ministerial Statement in December 2018 the key findings from the review and the actions that the Department is taking forward. We will, of course, continue to keep overseas charging policy under review to ensure that the regime operates as intended and without causing unintended consequences, particularly on the most vulnerable groups.

Yours ever,

MATT HANCOCK