



Department of Health & Social Care

*From the Rt Hon James Murray MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

27 May 2026

Dear Social Care and NHS colleagues,

I am deeply honoured to have been appointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care by the Prime Minister.

Let me begin by thanking you all for the extraordinary work you do every day for patients, residents, families and communities across England.

I also want to pay tribute to Wes Streeting for his leadership and commitment to rebuilding our health and care services. I am excited to continue that work.

Thanks to the record investment this Government has made and all your efforts, our health and care system has turned a corner. Waiting lists have fallen by more than half a million, the biggest improvement in waiting times for 16 years, cancers are being diagnosed earlier and families given renewed hope.

I know the difference compassionate care can make. Eighteen years ago, I was diagnosed with a serious neurological condition, and the NHS continues to support me with the same skill and kindness today as it did in the beginning.

My experience reinforced my belief that healthcare and care services must always be rooted in dignity, compassion and fairness.

I want equally to recognise the vital contribution of adult social care workers. Every day, in care settings, people's homes and communities across the country, you support older and vulnerable people with professionalism, kindness and skill.

This Government is committed to supporting you through reforms, including the first statutory Fair Pay Agreement for care workers, greater investment in local services and changes to Carer's Allowance.

Looking ahead, my priorities are clear: cutting waiting times further, embracing innovation and delivering our 10 Year Health Plan.

Technology, digitisation and AI will help us build a modern health and care system that is the envy of the world. This will free up clinicians and care workers to spend more time on what they do best: caring for patients and residents.

I take on this role with a deep sense of privilege, responsibility and respect for the amazing contribution you all make to the health and wellbeing of our communities. I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'J' and 'M' with a horizontal line crossing through them, set against a light blue textured background.

RT HON JAMES MURRAY MP