



Had a response from your MP on the NHS Bill?

Here's some tips for what to do next...

Assessing your MP's response

In the vast majority of cases, MPs will send a stock response to constituents who have emailed them about the NHS Bill. This will set out their party's agreed position and narrative on the proposed reforms. If you haven't yet done so, please **forward your MP's response to us** at hello@justtreatment.org so that we can keep track of what MPs are saying, and we can also let you know if your MP has said anything which differs from their party line. We recommend taking a different approach to your MP's response depending on what their position is 📌

If your MP has indicated they support the bill:

We've seen that Conservative MPs are making a number of assertions about the bill in their email responses which can - and should - be challenged. However, doing this in a private email exchange is unlikely to have much of an impact. The most effective way of challenging MPs and ramping up the pressure on them is to make as many of their constituents as possible aware of their position, and publicly shame them for it. And one of the best ways to do this is by reaching out to your **local media** to get them to report on the MPs position. We've made a handy guide explaining all the ways you can get local press coverage - [click here to read it!](#)

To help with reaching out to your local media - and replying directly to your MP if this is something you still want to do - here's a breakdown of some of the key arguments being made, and why they are flawed 📌

What Conservative MPs are saying	Why this should be challenged!
"I am encouraged by the preliminary positive feedback received"	The British Medical Association - the trade union representing doctors and medical students in the UK - has voiced deep concern and opposition to the reforms . These concerns are shared by a wide range of healthcare policy experts and campaigners, as well as hundreds of thousands of members of the public who have signed petitions against the bill.



<p>“These proposed reforms will also include proper accountability mechanisms”</p>	<p>Without significant amendment, the bill as it stands would do the opposite of ensuring accountability - it would give private healthcare companies a seat at the table when decisions are made about NHS care, and it would see even less scrutiny over the processes to award contracts.</p> <p>Therefore, if MPs believe in accountability, they should support amendments to the bill which would ensure that the NHS is the default provider for contracts, and that private healthcare companies are not permitted to sit on NHS decision-making bodies.</p>
<p>“Proposed reforms will aim to continue to improve the quality of these services and patient outcomes”</p>	<p>This legislation offers no real solutions to the major urgent crises facing the NHS, such as waiting lists and staff shortages. It is clear that the government should be focusing on tackling these crucial issues rather than pursuing a major reorganisation of the NHS which many NHS staff and patients are deeply concerned about. As the BMA have said - this is the wrong bill at the wrong time.</p>
<p>“The NHS will always be free at the point of use”</p>	<p>This is a straw man argument! The reason that we are deeply concerned about this bill is that it’s taking us further down the route of an American-style health system which commercialises care. This will exacerbate the growing problem of a two-tier service where those who can afford to pay for care go private, whilst everyone else is left lingering on record-breaking waiting lists. We are already seeing many areas in the health service where increasing numbers of people are being forced to go private - and this bill will do nothing to reverse this dangerous trend.</p>

If your MP has indicated they oppose the bill:

The minimum that we need from MPs who oppose the bill is to support amendments that remove the worst parts of the legislation.

So, if your MP has not already made it clear in their response, go back to them and seek clarification on whether they will support any amendments to the bill which ensure that:

- a) The NHS is the default provider for contracts;
- b) Private healthcare companies are not permitted to sit on NHS decision-making bodies.

Thank them for their opposition, and make it clear that even with these amendments, this is still a bill that will damage our NHS, and that we encourage them to do everything they can to oppose it in its entirety!