

Dear Heidi Alexander

How to make our NHS sustainable? We are losing personal morale and commitment faster than money (re cross-party review)

Thank you for getting Melanie Haslam to reply to me and conveying your recent speech in Parliament.

I understand your reluctance to join a cross-party review. I fear you are right and hope you are wrong.

Beyond your caveats I remain convinced that we have a massive waste of human and economic resources in the NHS *because* of the last two decades of NHS reforms. All three parties in government have added to those problems: they have become embedded and now cultural.

Promulgating the 3Cs – competition, commissioning and commodification – is responsible for much of our waste and demoralisation. Because of this I would like to see a dismantling of the entire Internal Market and its autarkic NHS Trusts and officiously cumbersome (yet often corrupted) commissionings.

I would like – by the time I need to be looked after – to see a refederalised NHS with the reestablishment of doctors who can offer – and are interested in – personal continuity of care: for example, General Practitioners working with personal lists from smaller practices, General Physicians working in hospitals with designated wards.

You talk of 'wanting to spend time with people ... in frank and honest discussion ...' about these very complex and difficult matters.

I, too, tenaciously seek out such discussions.

My small GP surgery is very close to both Parliament and your constituency: discussion should be easy to arrange.

I hope we will have a direct conversation.

Thank you for your thoughtful conviction.

With best wishes

Dr David Zigmond (GP)