



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Will Quince MP
Minister of State for Health and Secondary Care

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Mr Sean Edmunds
External Relations Manager
Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
By email to: sean@ipem.ac.uk

9 August 2023

Dear Mr Edmunds,

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 April, on behalf of the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), about the medical physics and clinical engineering workforce. Please accept my sincere apologies for the long delay in replying.

We recognise the current pressures facing the NHS workforce. Accordingly, we have increased the size of the NHS workforce over the last decade and have seen record numbers of staff working in the NHS. Compared to March 2022, there are now almost 24,100 more professionally qualified clinical staff working in NHS trusts and integrated care boards.

Nonetheless, we know there is more to do if we are to put the NHS workforce on a more sustainable footing for the future. The *NHS Long Term Workforce Plan* sets out the steps that the NHS and its partners need to take to deliver an NHS workforce that meets the changing needs of the population over the next 15 years.

The Government is backing the plan with over £2.4 billion over the next five years to fund additional education and training places. This is on top of increases to education and training investment, reaching a record £6.1 billion over the next two years.

By significantly expanding domestic education, training and recruitment, we will have more healthcare professionals working in the NHS. This will include more doctors and nurses alongside an expansion in a range of other professions, including healthcare scientists and more staff working in new roles.

We know healthcare scientists provide a vital service within the NHS, which is why the plan sets the ambition to increase training places for healthcare scientists by 13 per cent to more than 850 places by 2028/29. This will put us on the path to increase training places by more than 30 per cent to over 1,000 places by 2031/32.

Apprenticeship routes for healthcare scientists are also being made available, with 20 per cent of training places delivered via an apprenticeship route by 2028/29. This is supporting an ambition to have 40 per cent of healthcare scientists starting their training via an apprenticeship by 2031/32.

Apprenticeships are an effective way of both growing the workforce and widening participation, as expanding these routes appeals to a broader diversity of applicants.

In addition to meeting with NHS England's Chief Scientific Officer to discuss workforce concerns, I understand that the IPEM has been invited to join meetings that will take forward work to improve workforce intelligence so as to ensure concerns are addressed and that future demand modelling for the workforce is robust.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Will Quince', written in a cursive style.

**WILL QUINCE MP
MINISTER OF STATE**