



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

17 October 2024

Dear Richard,

Further to your letter today, I am writing to accept your resignation as Chair of NHS England.

You have led the organisation through a period of significant internal change and unprecedented external challenges and have done so with the greatest dedication and integrity. From all of our conversations that we have had your commitment to the role has been evident.

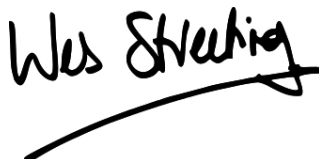
Your tenure has also fulfilled the essential criteria of leadership: you leave the organisation in better shape than you found it. You have overseen the merger of NHS Improvement, NHS Digital and Health Education England. You have reduced central headcount by a third, cut bureaucracy and freed up millions of pounds for patient care at the same time as overseeing the formal establishment of Integrated Care Boards. You have also embraced technology and innovation that has the potential to revolutionise care in the 21st century.

It is a testament to your character that throughout all of that change and upheaval, those who have benefited from your leadership and stewardship of NHS England speak with warmth, affection and gratitude for the way in which you have supported them to meet these challenges. In that spirit, I want to say a personal thank you for the support you have given me and the ministerial team during our first months in office.

I am enormously grateful that you have agreed to stay on while we recruit a successor to provide continuity of leadership and enable an effective handover. I am also grateful for the advice you have already given about the governance challenges of an organisation of the size and importance of NHS England. While we are in agreement about the need for a chair with significant experience in health to lead the radical shift the Government wants to see from hospital to primary and community care and greater devolution of power and control from the centre, the service you have given underlines the importance of having a mix of experience at board level. The Board will need diversity of experience and perspective as we embark on a new ten year plan and I'm delighted that you will help us build it. There is no doubt in my mind that your decades of experience in financial services has offered the NHS valuable skills and insights that have been hugely impactful through a period of substantial challenges. Moreover, it is a riposte to those cynics who believe that a deep commitment to public service is the sole preserve of those who work in public services.

Your own commitment to public service is obvious and outstanding and I hope we will continue to benefit from your experience and expertise in public life long after your time as Chair comes to an end.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wes Streeting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

**RT HON WES STREETING MP**