



**From:** TIMPSON, Edward

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**Subject:** **!** [URGENT PRESS RELEASE & HANSARD] CHESHIRE CONSERVATIVE MPs WELCOME COMMITMENT TO LEIGHTON HOSPITAL REBUILD AS PART OF £20 billion NEW HOSPITAL PROGRAMME

## **CHESHIRE CONSERVATIVE MPs WELCOME COMMITMENT TO LEIGHTON HOSPITAL REBUILD AS PART OF £20 BILLION NEW HOSPITAL PROGRAMME**

- **Edward Timpson, Dr Kieran Mullan, and Fiona Bruce have all welcomed the Government's commitment to rebuild Leighton Hospital by 2030 as part of the *New Hospital Programme*.**
- **Leighton Hospital is one of five more hospitals constructed primarily using reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) set to be rebuilt by 2030 as part of the *New Hospital Programme*—protecting patient and staff safety.**
- **The *New Hospital Programme* is now expected to be backed by over £20 billion of investment in hospital infrastructure.**
- **More patients will benefit from a new rolling programme of investment in facilities and infrastructure, including new hospitals.**

**Edward Timpson CBE KC, Member of Parliament for Eddisbury, said:**

“Leighton Hospital has looked after the health of our local community for over 50 years, including delivering all four of my own children!

“But, as fantastic as the people who work there are, the buildings themselves desperately need renewing to enable staff to continue providing excellent healthcare for years to come.

“This is why today’s announcement that Leighton will have a new lease of life by way of a complete rebuild—off the back of our joint Conservative campaign—is so important, and is a testament to all the hard work that has gone into making the case for this massive boost to our local hospital.”

**Dr Kieran Mullan, Member of Parliament for Crewe & Nantwich, said:**

“This is fantastic news for our constituents and the whole area. I have been supporting Leighton with its bid since 2020, and this result is a massive tribute to their tireless efforts to make the case to the Government for funding.

“I want to thank the thousands of people that signed the petition backing the campaign, which local Conservative MPs and others supported.

“Leighton Hospital does fantastic work, helping us when we are most in need. But the simple matter is that the building is long past its sell-by-date, and a complete redevelopment is required.

“Thank you again to everyone who has helped and supported this campaign. Thousands of you signed the petition calling for a rebuild, and shared your personal experiences of Leighton Hospital with us.”

**Fiona Bruce, Member of Parliament for Congleton, said:**

“I welcome this substantial investment, which will benefit my constituents in the Middlewich area who use the services of Leighton Hospital.

“It is especially welcome given the number of new homes being built locally.

“I am delighted that the joint working of Conservative MPs across this part of Cheshire—Edward Timpson, Kieran Mullan, David Rutley and myself—in calling for improvements to Leighton Hospital have been listened to and acted on by the Government, and in such a major way.”

**Leighton Hospital** is one of five additional hospitals being built—the others include Airedale in West Yorkshire, Hinchingsbrooke in Cambridgeshire, Queen Elizabeth King’s Lynn in Norfolk, and Frimley Park in Surrey.

These hospitals all have significant amounts of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC), a lightweight type of concrete used to construct parts of the NHS estate in the past, but one which has a limited lifespan, after which it deteriorates significantly.

Given the risks they pose to patients and staff, the Government has prioritised rebuilding these hospitals.

The *New Hospital Programme* is expected to represent over £20 billion of investment in

new hospital infrastructure.

**Health and Social Care Secretary, the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, said:**

“These five hospitals are in pressing need of repair, and are being prioritised so that patients and staff can benefit from new major hospital buildings equipped with the latest technology.

“On top of this, I am strengthening our *New Hospital Programme* by confirming that it is expected to represent more than £20 billion of new investment in hospital infrastructure.

“As we approach the 75th anniversary of our fantastic NHS, this extra investment will ensure it can care for patients for decades to come and help cut waiting lists, so they get the treatment they need quicker.”

**Health Minister, the Rt Hon the Lord Markham, said:**

“We are investing in new NHS facilities across the country, giving patients the certainty they can access world-leading care in state-of-the-art hospitals, both now and in the years to come.

“In the immediate term, we’re focussing on quickly and safely rebuilding hospitals in areas which need it most—specifically those affected by this specific type of concrete, which poses a significant risk to patients and staff if not rebuilt by 2030.

“In the long term, our new standardised design means we can rapidly replicate new hospitals across the country, helping speed up construction and improving patient services faster.”

**Senior Responsible Owner of the *New Hospital Programme*, Ms Natalie Forrest, said:**

“This is a significant milestone for the *New Hospital Programme* as we continue to progress with delivering facilities for staff and patients at the cutting edge of modern technology with the experience of those who will use these hospitals at the heart of our focus.

“We’re continuing to build healthcare infrastructure that improves patient care—including modern designs, creating single rooms ensuring maximum natural light and access to outdoor spaces.

“This new design will reduce the workload of NHS staff through digital solutions, well-designed flow, and designated areas for staff recuperation.

“I look forward to continuing to work with all of the healthcare trusts included, and welcoming the new ones into the *New Hospital Programme*.”

**ENDS**

# Notes to Editors and Hansard quotes from Cheshire MPs & ministers

## The Cheshire MPs' Leighton Hospital Campaign: Parliamentary Record

Today's Ministerial Statement on New Hospitals (25 May, 2023)

### The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health & Adult Social Care

"I want to take a moment to thank all those who have campaigned so tirelessly for new hospitals to be built to replace the existing RAAC [reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete] hospitals, including my hon. and learned Friend the Member for **Eddisbury (Edward Timpson)** and my hon. Friend the Member for **Crewe and Nantwich (Dr Mullan)**, who led the campaign on **Leighton Hospital...**"

(SOURCE: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-05-25/debates/7EBE9B4E-CDEC-42F9-BC63-70BB277BC13E/details#contribution-F1AEB76E-F691-4102-8214-6551529C6D29>)

...

### Dr Kieran Mullan (Crewe and Nantwich) (Con)

I very warmly welcome this announcement and pay tribute to the leadership of **Leighton Hospital**, who have relentlessly advocated for this. It has been a three-year, team-effort campaign, particularly with my hon. and learned Friend the Member for **Eddisbury (Edward Timpson)**, as well as my hon. Friend the Member for **Congleton (Fiona Bruce)** and others. I thank the thousands of residents who signed the petition backing this campaign, and I know the team will be itching to get started. Could my right hon. Friend perhaps outline what the next steps will be for **Leighton** and the other sites?

### Steve Barclay

Again, I pay tribute to my hon. Friend's campaigning work, as well as the work he did in his local hospital as a volunteer during lockdown, which was extremely well received. It is why he has campaigned—along with my hon. and learned Friend the Member for **Eddisbury** and my hon. Friend the Member for **Congleton**—to make the case for this investment. I am very happy to have further discussions with him as liaison with the trust on the next steps moves forward.

(SOURCE: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-05-25/debates/7EBE9B4E-CDEC-42F9-BC63-70BB277BC13E/details#contribution-42828EC9-1CBC-4D62-8E55-86E63C2C6547>)

...

### Fiona Bruce (Congleton) (Con)

On behalf of my constituents, particularly in Middlewich and Sandbach, I warmly welcome the excellent news on the rebuild of **Leighton Hospital**. I thank Ministers for responding to the determined local campaigning on this, commendably led by my hon. Friend the Member for **Crewe and Nantwich (Dr Mullan)** and also involving my hon. and learned Friend the Member for **Eddisbury (Edward Timpson)** and my hon. Friend the Member

for **Macclesfield (David Rutley)**. Without wanting to detract from that, could I again ask the Secretary of State to look at Congleton War Memorial Hospital? Will he meet me to discuss how the services and facilities there can be expanded and modernised? There is capacity for the site to serve the residents of Congleton, where demand is increasing, as house building has increased in the area.

## Steve Barclay

I know that my hon. Friend has championed this investment in her health system. She is right that it serves a number of constituencies and is part of the wider system transformation that I set out, with other investments such as in diagnostic centres and surgical hubs. The Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, my hon. Friend the Member for Harborough (Neil O'Brien), who leads on primary care, has been looking at the specific issue of new housing and how we can get the right level of contribution from new housing to local health facilities. I know that he will be happy to discuss that with her.

(SOURCE: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-05-25/debates/7EBE9B4E-CDEC-42F9-BC63-70BB277BC13E/details#contribution-B409CDA9-830A-49CD-87DF-9B092855B26B>)

## Adjournment debate on the Hospital Building Programme (3 November, 2021)

Led by Dr Kieran Mullan MP (Crewe & Nantwich) with support from Edward Timpson CBE KC MP (Eddisbury), and responded to by the Rt Hon Edward Argar MP (then Minister of State for Health).

(SOURCE: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-11-03/debates/3303C4ED-7F9E-4EDD-ABC7-DDD0CEB80030/HospitalBuildingProgramme>)

## Question to the Prime Minister on Leighton Hospital (Wednesday, 8 February 2023)

### Dr Kieran Mullan (Crewe and Nantwich) (Con)

There is no doubt that the NHS is under enormous pressure across the UK and, despite record numbers of nurses and doctors, the workforce remains a challenge. So I welcome the fact that, for the first time, the NHS will get an independently verified workforce plan. But we have to think long term on buildings, too. In that regard, can the Prime Minister look closely at proposals to rebuild **Leighton Hospital**, which is a campaign that has the support of thousands of residents in south Cheshire?

### The Prime Minister

I know that **Leighton Hospital** has been allocated more than £44 million to address some of the immediate issues at that site. I also know that my hon. Friend is keen to ensure continued investment in his local hospital. The Department for Health and Social Care is looking at more hospitals to join the *New Hospital Programme*, and I am sure that it will have heard what he said and, indeed, the voices of his constituents, too.

(SOURCE: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-02-08/debates/B0FDAF7E-C4FA-4F7A-939B-CBBD63B3BDCF/Engagements?highlight=leighton#contribution-44AF5423-7F36-4BE9-A8EA-F00E60D32AA6>)

## Department for Health & Social Care: The *New Hospital Programme*

### A package of investment of more than £20 billion—and a sustainable rolling programme

- Recognising the need for continuous investment, we're moving to a long-term rolling programme that will include upgrading buildings, machinery or software and investing in new hospitals beyond 2030.

### Hospital 2.0

- Hospital 2.0 is our standardised blueprint for new hospitals. By developing a national approach to new hospitals, they can be built more quickly and at a reduced cost, providing taxpayer value. In addition, patients and staff will benefit from modern hospital design, using the latest technology, digital innovation and sustainability to improve the overall patient experience and provide a better working environment for staff.
- The new hospital scheme for Leighton Hospital will be built using Hospital 2.0 principles while ensuring it is tailored to local needs.

### Rebuilding reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) hospitals

- To protect patients and staff, we have committed to rebuilding, by 2030, five additional hospitals that were primarily built using reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). These five hospitals are Airedale in West Yorkshire, Queen Elizabeth King's Lynn in Norfolk, Hinchingbrooke in Cambridgeshire, Mid Cheshire Leighton in Cheshire, and Frimley Park in Surrey. These hospitals all have significant amounts of RAAC, and the NHS has asked us to prioritise rebuilding these hospitals, given the risks they pose.
- The full extent of risks RAAC presents at these five hospitals has only come to light since the process was first launched. These are large and complex schemes—and in that context, we should prioritise their delivery to ensure patient and staff safety. The *New Hospital Programme* will focus on delivering these major new hospitals as a priority, and therefore other schemes will not be invited to join the programme at the moment.

### Three new mental health hospitals

- Three new mental health hospitals will be delivered through wider capital funding—as part of a commitment to eradicate dormitory accommodation from mental health facilities across the country and put mental health on an equal footing to physical

health. These are in Surrey, Derbyshire and Merseyside.

- They are backed by investments in mental health provision, including £150 million to improve mental health facilities linked to A&E, and also in mental health units.

### Wider funding for hospital upgrades

- We are also investing £5.9 billion of funding for elective recovery, diagnostics, and technology, and £1.7 billion for more than 70 significant hospital upgrades.

## Q&A

### What is the status of the *New Hospital Programme* schemes?

- Two schemes are already complete, and five are in construction. By next year, more than 20 will be underway.
- We're investing more than £20 billion in new hospital infrastructure to deliver the *New Hospital Programme* fully.
- We are on track to deliver the manifesto commitment to build 40 new hospitals in England by 2030.

### On what basis have you prioritised these five reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) hospitals over others?

- The NHS has asked us to prioritise rebuilding these hospitals given the risks these buildings pose to patients and staff—the full extent of which has come to light since the programme was first announced in 2019.
- Recent detailed structural assessment of the additional five sites has confirmed they are not safe to operate beyond 2030. Therefore, to ensure the hospitals can continue caring for patients, they must be rebuilt, as the current propping and risk mitigation cannot be a long-term fix.

### How much will the new hospitals cost to build?

- The additional five reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) hospitals are part of the *New Hospital Programme*, which is expected to represent more than £20 billion of investment.

- This is part of a multi-year capital settlement where further funding will be set out in future spending reviews in the usual way.
- All schemes within the *New Hospital Programme* follow a business case process, including being reviewed and agreed upon by ministers. Therefore, final individual allocations for schemes will only be determined once the Full Business Cases have been reviewed and approved.

### Will patients and staff using the current buildings be safe in the meantime?

- Patient and staff safety is our top priority.
- We remain committed to eradicating reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) from the wider NHS estate by 2035. We have already allocated £685 million in immediate support to help keep patients and staff safe, including in these five hospitals. We will continue to provide funding in the short term to mitigate immediate risks.
- Also, more than £4 billion is shared annually to maintain the NHS estate and address safety issues.

### What does the long-term rolling programme mean in practice?

- We recognise the need for continuous investment in healthcare infrastructure. Therefore, the *New Hospital Programme* will become part of a rolling investment programme in new health capital infrastructure, including hospitals, providing a more sustainable, consistent approach to delivering new hospitals up to 2030 and beyond—and it will mean more than 40 hospitals in the long term.
- We will set out plans at future Spending Reviews or other fiscal events, including when and how further projects will be invited to join the programme from 2030 onwards, and other major capital investment opportunities beyond the *New Hospital Programme*.
- NHS Trusts should engage with their Integrated Care System to help consider whether there is scope to prioritise schemes short of a new hospital within local investment plans, in line with the ICS's infrastructure strategy. We encourage you to engage with your local ICS to understand local needs and finances.

### What is Hospital 2.0?

- Hospital 2.0 combines components throughout the hospital-build process into one functional system to provide standardised designs to deliver innovative and sustainable healthcare environments for patients and staff.

- Different formulations of standardised components will be used to build common clinical departments, including in-patient wards, accident and emergency departments, operating theatre blocks and maternity services.
- The scale and predictability of our needs will encourage investment in capability and skills, driving economic growth and creating new high-skill jobs across the UK.

### Which hospitals will be built with Hospital 2.0?

- The hospitals that are already advanced in their development, such as cohorts 1 and 2, will not be able to incorporate Hospital 2.0 designs. In contrast, we have more ability to influence projects still in the planning stage in the later cohorts, so they will benefit more from the standardised approach.
- Incorporating elements of Hospital 2.0 will mean that hospitals built in later schemes will be at the forefront of hospital design. It will help hospitals to be delivered more efficiently, improve productivity and deliver better patient and staff experiences.

### Our aim for using Hospital 2.0 to build new hospitals

- Hospital 2.0 will ensure value for money for the taxpayer and that local areas get more for less within available resources.
- The current construction market cannot deliver all *New Hospital Programme* schemes if we take a local, siloed approach. There are also many examples of previous hospital builds running over-time and over-budget.
- We intend to work with the construction industry to build capacity while learning the lessons from previous hospital builds to avoid delays and cost increases during construction.

### Will mental health hospitals form part of the new hospital building scheme?

- All three schemes in Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust, Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust and Mersey Care Foundation Trust are new hospitals.
- The rebuilding of three mental health hospitals forms part of our commitment to eradicate dormitory accommodation from mental health facilities across the country and put mental health on an equal footing to physical health. The scope of these schemes has expanded since the programme's inception, and they will deliver extensive brand-new mental health facilities with significant numbers of beds, contributing to our commitment to provide new hospitals.
- They are backed by a share of wider capital investments into mental health,

including £150 million aimed at better mental health facilities linked to A&E and enhancing patient safety in mental health units.

**END OF NOTES**