



Finance bulletin

December 2025

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice.

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What does the Autumn Budget 2024 mean for health and care?

In this [explainer, the Chief Analyst at The King's Fund](#), breaks down what the Autumn Budget means for the NHS, adult social care, and wider health and care services.

Get Britain Working White Paper – what you need to know

To drive forward approaches to tackling economic inactivity and work towards the long-term ambition of an 80% employment rate, the government has published a [Get Britain Working White Paper](#), backed by £240 million of investment. The investment includes funding to tackle ill health as the biggest driver of inactivity. As part of this, the government is investing in eight areas across England and Wales, to integrate and improve local work, health and skills support. This will include funding in three of the trailblazer areas for integrated care system (ICS) accelerators to improve population health outcomes and reduce health-related economic inactivity.

Costs and activity for mental health services provided by NHS mental health trusts in England: sociodemographic and regional trends

This [study from the University of York supported by the Health Foundation](#), showed that between 2016 and 2019, total costs of secondary mental health services increased by 13%, outpacing the average inflation rate of 2.3%. The number of individuals needing to use NHS secondary mental health services also rose by 8%. The highest costs were seen among working-age men and residents of England's most deprived areas.

Health care funding: the latest funding figures for England

The [REAL Centre explores the latest health care funding figures for England](#). This includes how much funding government has committed over the next 2 years, how this compares to historical levels and how it stacks up against what is needed to meet the pressures facing health services.

Leading the NHS: proposals to regulate NHS managers

This [public consultation seeks views on government proposals to regulate health service managers](#), ensuring that they follow professional standards and are held to account. The Department is also consulting on whether to introduce a new professional duty of candour on managers and, in addition, whether to make managers accountable for responding to patient safety concerns. This consultation closes at 11:59pm on 18 February 2025.



Policy levers for a net zero NHS: four priorities for the future

This [long read from The Health Foundation](#) assesses how national policy levers are currently being used in relation to net zero health care, where the gaps are and what could be changed to make faster progress. As the government develops its 10-year health plan, a new long-term reform agenda for the NHS in England, the Health Foundation identifies four priorities for policy-makers to ensure that progress on net zero is maintained.

Tackling modern slavery in NHS procurement: proposed regulations and guidance

This [consultation invites views on the draft National Health Service \(Procurement, Slavery and Human Trafficking\) Regulations 2024 and accompanying guidance](#). It is seeking opinions on: how the regulations will be implemented; the impact of the regulations on tackling modern slavery; how frameworks and dynamic markets should assess and manage modern slavery risks; and how public bodies want to be supported to implement these new duties. The closing date for comments is 13 February 2025.

Tackling the impact of cancer on health, the economy and society

Cancer causes 1 in 4 premature deaths in OECD countries. It damages people's quality of life, their ability to work, and their incomes. Cancer increases health expenditure and harms the economy through reduced labour force participation and productivity. The economic and social costs of cancer will grow as populations age and cancer treatment costs increase. This [report from the OECD](#) demonstrates the strong economic and societal case for investing in cancer policies.

The motivational state: a strengths-based approach to improving public sector productivity

This [paper from Demos](#) argues that traditional approaches to improving public sector productivity, such as adopting private sector practices, technology-driven reforms, and tighter management, have failed to address the complex and evolving needs of public service users. It proposes a shift towards a strengths-based, person-led model, where public services are co-produced with individuals, families and communities.

The NHS productivity challenge: driving improvement through finance transformation

NHS finance and other corporate functions have a significant role to play in both contributing to improved finance productivity and in facilitating productivity gains across the NHS. This [joint briefing from HFMA and NHS Shared Business Services](#) explores the impact that striving for greater productivity is likely to have on the NHS finance community.