



Tuesday, 30 May 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

In case you didn't know, I am an NHS Charge Nurse. I see incredible work done by nurses in my hospital every day and so I am very happy to support the Nursing Counts manifesto.

Thank you for contacting me directly about these issues. I fully appreciate how difficult things are for nurses across the health service at the moment. My girlfriend is also a nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital and I'm so proud of how she manages to do her work and keep her patients safe under very challenging circumstances.

If elected, I and other Green Party MPs will push the government to close the NHS spending gap to ensure everyone can access a GP, hospitals can run properly and staff are fairly paid. A Green government would immediately increase the overall NHS budget by £12 billion a year to overcome the immediate funding crisis.

The predicted annual funding gap is £30bn by 2020. The last government only committed £4.5bn, with the rest supposed to be found through 'efficiency savings'. However, the consensus within the sector is that efficiencies on that scale are not possible, and that services will therefore have to be cut unless more funding is forthcoming.

We would close this remaining £25.5bn gap in part through ending privatisation and the internal market, which would lead to savings of between £4.5bn and £10bn. Marketisation of the NHS, supported by all the other parties, has increased costs, led to fragmentation of services, and allowed private providers to cherry-pick profitable treatments.

We would repeal the Health and Social Care Act 2012, and introduce an NHS Reinstatement Bill, as already brought to Parliament by Green MP Caroline Lucas. This Bill would restore the obligation upon the government to provide a comprehensive health service, abolish competition and market-based commissioning and procurement, and re-establish public bodies and public accountability.

The Green Party supports a focus on prevention and early intervention. However, these aims in the emerging Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) are wholly undermined by the lack of money on offer; long-term savings require short-term investment, for example public health investment to tackle obesity. For this reason, we would scrap STPs, which are primarily about cost savings, not improvements, and have had little to no input from health professionals or patients.

We would provide accessible, local community health centres that provide a wide range of services, including out-of-hours care. These will help people access healthcare quickly and will not be a replacement for GPs.

For too long, workers in the NHS have been underpaid, undervalued and ignored. They remain some of the most overworked in our society despite the importance of their day-to-day decisions and actions. We would reverse privatisation of ancillary services so that all those working in the NHS receive the same pay and conditions. We would also reduce staff working hours to a maximum in line with the Working Time Directive.

The Green Party will resist any proposed immigration policy that would undermine the NHS or create uncertainty for staff. Our MP and MEPs have been among the most vocal in standing up for the rights of EU citizens in the UK following the referendum. We would, however, also create incentives for more UK citizens to train as nurses and doctors to meet need. Our policy to scrap all undergraduate tuition fees includes fees for nursing and midwifery courses and we would reinstate student nursing bursaries and maintenance grants for students from poorer backgrounds.

Thank you for getting in touch and thank you for everything you do.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Tuckwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stuart Tuckwood
Parliamentary candidate for Cambridge