

## Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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### Shock at Budget's total failure on health and care



The Patients Association was shocked by this week's Budget, which failed to provide funding to enable health and social care services to build back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Head of Policy, John Kell, said in statement published on our website and shared on social media: "Patients appear set for another bleak year or more ahead. There will probably have to be some emergency cash injection into the NHS at some point, given how plainly inadequate this settlement is.

"But the health and care system as a whole will not be able to plan with confidence to reduce the backlog, bring down waiting lists and deal with the health needs that will arise over the longer term from both the pandemic itself and the successive lockdowns that have been essential in controlling infection levels, but come at a cost to people's wellbeing.

"For all that the vaccine roll-out might give us overall reason to feel optimistic, and showcase both what the NHS can achieve and the strength of the UK's medical research

base, today's failures by the Chancellor store up problems that will be a black cloud on the horizon in the coming years."

You can read our full reaction below.

Photo of the Chancellor by [HM Treasury on Flickr](#), under Creative Commons licence [BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

[Read the statement](#)

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## Northern Ireland announces its route out of lockdown



The Northern Ireland Executive has revealed a five-stage plan for how it will exit lockdown – but there are no specific dates.

Every month, the Executive will review progress and if there are no setbacks, Northern Ireland should emerge from lockdown by summer.

Restrictions have been in place since 26 December for retail, hospitality and education, as well as travel, exercise, work and worship. This is stage 1. Stage 2 includes the reopening of cafes, outdoor sports facilities, partial return of schools, and permission for six people from two households to meet in someone's garden.

Stage 3 will see six people from two households meeting indoors, return of all school pupils, retail fully reopened, table service allowed in restaurants and pubs but drink-only pubs to remain closed.

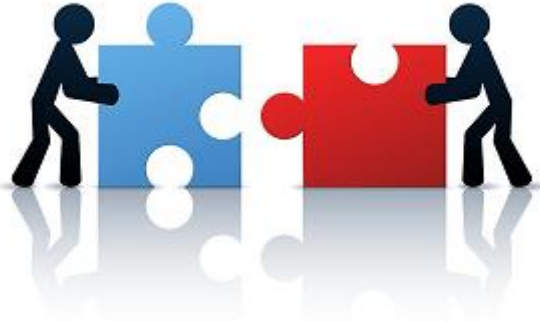
Stage 4 the pubs will be able to open, as will theatres and cinemas, and some spectators will be allowed into sports event.

The final stage will see everything open – hopefully.

[Read more](#)

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## NHS White Paper – including patient partnership



Last month [we commented on the Government's white paper on the NHS](#). The proposals are intended to improve integration both within the NHS and between the NHS and other services, including social care.

While we welcomed the overall intention, we criticised the lack of a role for patients in the proposals. Since then, we have been in discussions with the officials at the Department of Health and Social Care who are preparing the new legislation, and talking to them about ways in which patient partnership might be strengthened in the reforms.

We will provide updates in future editions of Weekly News when we have news to share.

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## Strong patient focus in CQC strategy welcomed



We have formally responded to the Care Quality Commission's consultation on its new draft strategy.

We welcome the very strong patient focus of the strategy, and make some key recommendations. These include greater clarity about how the success of the strategy will be evaluated, and caution about changing providers' ratings by relying on data provided by the provider themselves and without making an inspection.

[Read the response](#)

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## Share your feet stories



Just over a year ago, we shared a survey from the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, as part of an initiative by the James Lind Alliance, to identify research priorities in this area.

A follow-up survey is now available, and the organisers are specifically looking for:

- Adults who are waiting for, or have had foot and/or ankle procedure
- Carers, friends or family members of an adult waiting for or has had foot and/or ankle procedure
- Healthcare professionals.

The [James Lind Alliance \(JLA\)](#) is a non-profit making initiative that brings patients, carers and clinicians together in [Priority Setting Partnerships \(PSPs\)](#) to identify and prioritise the [Top 10 unanswered questions](#) or evidence uncertainties that they agree are the most important.

[Take the survey](#)

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## Opportunity to share your experience with chronic wound care



Do you experience chronic wounds (caused by trauma, diabetes, vascular disease, infection, pressure) and use wound care services? If so, we would like to hear from you. The Patients Association is working with Mölnlycke, a global medical products and solutions company, to better understand patients' experience with wound care and gather insights on why wound care treatment might be delayed (especially during the COVID-19 pandemic). Your feedback will shape information resources to help patients get help at the right time and support self-care.

We are seeking individuals who experience chronic wounds to participate in an online focus group or case study interview. Participants will be reimbursed with an £80 incentive payment. Places are very limited. If you are interested in being considered to participate, please contact Sharrie McIntosh [sharrie.mcintosh@patients-association.org.uk](mailto:sharrie.mcintosh@patients-association.org.uk).

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## Surveys still open



If you haven't had the time to complete our surveys into your current experiences of the pandemic, wound care, and hospital food, please spare us 10 to 15 minutes to complete them this weekend.

- COVID-19: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FXW3VWZ>
- Wound care <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3XYPF7Z>
- Hospital food <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B8PRTHS>

We are very grateful to all of you who take the time to complete our surveys, which help us share the opinions of patients widely.

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## Our helpline



Michelle\* called us to get up to date information on how to register next of kin. Her friend had asked to have his next of kin changed in hospital but these requests have been ignored.

Our helpline adviser explained that a patient has the right to formally nominate his, her or their next of kin. We recommended that Michelle's friend get in touch with the Patient Advice and Liaison Service or Complaints Department at the hospital to get PALS to support his request to register his chosen next of kin.

**\* Name changed for privacy.**

Our adviser also shared the link to our online information about next of kin <https://www.patients-association.org.uk/next-of-kin>.

We have a range of information leaflets [on our website](#) which contain useful information

and pointers if you have a quick question about your health and social care. If you can't find the answers you need there, you can always call our helpline on 0800 3457115 between 9.30am and 5pm on weekdays, or email [helpline@patients-association.org.uk](mailto:helpline@patients-association.org.uk). See our website for more ways to get in touch.

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## What our team is reading

[The end of an era? Brexit's impact on the UK's scientific successes](#)

[1% pay rise for NHS staff 'the most' the government can afford, says minister](#)

[Meet the super dogs: 5 canine health heroes and their extraordinary](#)

[Government must put mental health checks at the heart of catch-up plans, NSPCC says](#)

[Findings on racism in psychiatry underpin the importance of equality action](#)

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## About Us

Our vision is that health and social care will be delivered in a way that meets every person's health and social care needs.

Our mission is to give effect to the patient voice, to improve patient experience and support people to engage fully in their own care. Find out more about our values on our [website](#).



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