**Letter for peers to send to Secretary of State - dhsc.sofs@dhsc.gov.uk**

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

Date

Dear Secretary of State,

***Delivering the right care, in the right place, at the right time for patients: extending prescribing responsibilities***

I have been contacted by a coalition of allied health professionals to support #PrescribingNow, a campaign for extending independent prescribing responsibilities to certain allied health professionals.

I am supporting the #PrescribingNow campaign and urge you to use the powers you have under the Medicines and Medical Devices Act (2021) to extend independent prescribing responsibilities to dietitians, occupational therapists, orthoptists, diagnostic radiographers, and speech and language therapists where it is safe and appropriate to do so within the scope of their professional practice.

It is a practical measure you can take to support patients and ease the pressure on other hard-pressed health professionals, such as GPs.

* It will help remove barriers that get in the way of what matters to patients, including reducing the amount of time that clinicians spend on time-sapping admin, helping patients to get the medicines they need more quickly, as well as devolving decision-making to the allied healthcare professionals who know their area best and giving greater freedom to do their job.
* It will also reduce bureaucracy for doctors and other health professionals, allowing them to get on with the job of treating and caring for other patients.

As you will know, during the Act’s passage the Government made various commitments to MPs and peers when they argued for prescribing responsibilities to be extended. Since then, there has been no meaningful action to take this forward.

Now is the time to deliver this simple reform, using the already existing and proven regulatory, education and governance frameworks that are in place for other prescribing professions, to maximise the experience and expertise of allied health professionals – in the interests of patients, the healthcare professionals working with them, and the wider health and care system.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Yours sincerely,