



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Dr Zubir Ahmed MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Health Innovation and Safety

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Mr Steve Jamieson
Chief Executive, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
By email to: ceo@rcslt.org

29 April 2026

Dear Mr Jamieson,

Thank you, and your co-signatories, for copying to Wes Streeting your correspondence of 22 March to the Prime Minister about speech and language therapy (SaLT) provision.

I appreciate your shared concerns.

There is a significant amount of work ongoing to address the challenges of SaLT provision for children and young people, including the following workstreams:

- the Early Language Support for Every Child programme;
- the Modern Service Framework for Children and Young People;
- NHS England's SaLT children and young people community waits toolkit;
- the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools;
- the National Quality Board's allied health professional safer staffing improvement guidance;
- the Schools White Paper *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*; and
- NHS England's *Standardising community health services - core component descriptors*.

Beyond these SaLT-specific workstreams, the upcoming publication of the ten-year workforce plan will directly address workforce planning, recruitment and retention for all clinical professions. The Department will continue to work collaboratively with NHS England, the Department for Education, and valued partners such as the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy.

I hope this reply is helpful, and I would be grateful if you could share it with your co-signatories.

Yours sincerely,

DR ZUBIR AHMED MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Health Innovation and Safety