



The voice of NHS leadership

## Prime Minister's Questions: 13 September 2017

Prime Minister's Question time is an opportunity for Members of Parliament (MPs) to routinely ask the Prime Minister questions about any issues that are of political significance or about any engagements that the Prime Minister has attended or is scheduled to attend. Below is a summary for our members of questions that have been asked that have particular relevance to the NHS Confederation's work.

Theresa May answered questions from Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge), Mike Wood (Dudley South), Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) and Simon Hoare (Dorset) on immigration and workers, raising awareness for Sepsis within the NHS, maternity services in Scotland and working to combat Multiple Sclerosis.

Today, the Prime Minister received a range of questions from MPs, particularly focusing on health services and the effect Brexit will have on workers.

### From the backbenches

#### Skills shortages

- Labour MP Daniel Zeichner asked Theresa May about the skills shortages in his constituency and what the Government's plans are to address the acute shortages of labour as a result of Brexit. Theresa May responded by saying that people are still coming to the UK to work and that her Government is making the improvement of the skills-base of the UK workforce a priority.

#### Sepsis awareness

- Conservative MP Mike Wood asked Theresa May if the Government is looking to raise awareness of the risks of and treatments available for sepsis. He mentioned that he was in a critical condition not long ago, suffering from sepsis, and that 10,000 people die each year from the blood poisoning infection. The Prime Minister responded by saying that 10,000 deaths per year can be prevented through earlier and better diagnoses. She stated that there is a new NICE treatment standard, which will be published this week and the NHS are going to publish standards to support frontline staff. Additionally, the NHS is also looking to produce a new Sepsis Action Plan.

#### Multiple sclerosis

- Conservative MP Simone Hoare celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Multiple Sclerosis society and invited the Prime Minister to make a commitment to raising awareness of the condition. He also asked for Government to support and help people with MS, particularly around re-joining the workforce. Theresa May praised the MS Society and noted that funding is made available through the Department of Health for neurological research, as well as for those with disabilities to re-join the workforce.

### **Support for vulnerable prisoners**

- Liberal Democrat and Science and Technology Committee Chair, Norman Lamb asked about the release of vulnerable prisoners without adequate support being in place. He asked the Prime Minister if state support would continue to be provided to prisoners who may suffer from mental health issues. In response, Theresa May stated that the relationship between health services and prisons is a long-standing issue and efforts to improve this have been made.