



## ANDREW SELOUS MP

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Mr Mervyn Stevens  
Complaints Officer  
UK Statistics Authority  
1 Drummond Gate  
London  
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27 November 2018

Dear Mr Stevens,

I am writing to lodge my concerns about statistics used by the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Jonathan Ashworth MP.

Speaking on BBC News on 20 November 2018, Mr Ashworth made two inaccurate claims about NHS funding:

1. Mr Ashworth repeatedly claimed that the Government is only increasing NHS funding in five years' time. He said 'The Government are putting some extra money in in 2023, in five years' time'.

This claim is untrue.

NHS England funding will increase every year between 2018-19 and 2023-24, from £114.6 billion to £149 billion:<sup>1</sup>

Table 1.7: Aggregate departmental resource budgets (Resource DEL excluding depreciation, in £ billion)

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Total Resource DEL excluding depreciation<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>313.0</b>	<b>327.0</b>	<b>338.4</b>	<b>348.7</b>	<b>359.5</b>	<b>371.6</b>
NHS England <sup>1</sup>	114.6	121.8	128.2	134.4	141.1	149.0
Departmental resource spending excluding NHS England	198.4	205.3	210.3	214.3	218.5	222.6
OBR allowance for shortfall <sup>2</sup>	-2.2	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7
<b>OBR resource DEL excluding depreciation forecast</b>	<b>310.8</b>	<b>325.4</b>	<b>336.8</b>	<b>347.0</b>	<b>357.9</b>	<b>369.9</b>

2. Mr Ashworth claimed that the NHS is receiving no additional funding this winter. He said 'There isn't an extra penny piece for the NHS this winter'.

This claim is untrue.

In September 2018 the Department of Health and Social Care announced £145 million of funding to prepare for winter demand by improving emergency care. This followed the announcement of £36.3 million for the ambulance service to prepare for winter.<sup>2</sup>

It is disappointing that the Shadow Secretary of State is misinforming the public about NHS funding. I would be grateful if you could look into this further and ensure that this misuse of statistics is dealt with appropriately.

Yours sincerely,

<sup>1</sup> HMT, *Budget 2018*, Table 1.7, 29 October 2018, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> DHSC, *News Story*, 7 September 2018, [link](#); DHSC, *News Story*, 6 July 2018, [link](#).