



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

21st November 2012

Dear David

International access to NHS Primary Care

We write to draw your attention to instructions issued, so we discovered, last July to the effect that primary NHS care should be made available to any visitor to Britain who is here for more than 24 hours and to all illegal immigrants. There was no press release at the time and certainly no debate.

By contrast, applicants for even a visitor's visa to the Schengen area (from outside the EU) must first obtain health insurance worth about £20,000. If they can insist on this and also police access to their health services, we cannot understand why we should not do the same.

Given the current severe pressures on the NHS we find this decision absolutely inexplicable. We suggest therefore that arrangements are made for these instructions to be withdrawn, for the whole matter to be reviewed and for a public debate on the way forward that would take full account of the financial pressures on the NHS as well as the interests of those who contribute through their taxes.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Jeremy Hunt at the Department for Health.

The Rt Hon NICHOLAS SOAMES MP

The Rt Hon FRANK FIELD MP DL