

## Health Select Committee

### Who are they?

---

A great deal of the work of Parliament takes place in committees, which examine wide ranging issues and scrutinise the work of the government. There is a **Commons Select Committee** for every government department, each of which typically has eleven members, including the Chair. The Health Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to **scrutinise the policy, spending and administration of the Department of Health and its associated public bodies.**

### What do they do?

---

In order to achieve its aim, the committee carries out a number of different types of work, including:

#### Inquiries



The Committee chooses its own line of inquiry and will then **gather written and oral evidence.** Depending on its scope, an inquiry may consist of a single oral evidence session, or may continue for several months, and the committee can also choose to conduct visits. Inquiry findings are reported to the Commons, printed, and **published on the Parliament website** and the government then, generally, has **60 days** to respond to the recommendations.

#### Pre appointment hearings

Pre-appointment hearings are held in public and enable the committee to take evidence from the **candidate for a key public position, before they are appointed** to the role. Following the session, the committee will publish a report setting out its views on the suitability of the candidate. This **report is non-binding**, but will be considered by government ahead of the appointment.



#### Correspondence



In its role examining issues relating to the Department of Health and its associated bodies, the committee **receives and responds to correspondence** from a range of sources, including members of the public, health-related organisations and Ministers.

### Recent work

---

- **First Report of the Health Committee of Session 2017-19 – Appointment of the Chair of NHS Improvement:**  
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhealth/479/479.pdf>
- **First Joint Report of the Education and Health Committees of Session 2016-17 - Children and young people's mental health—the role of education:**  
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhealth/849/849.pdf>
- **Eighth Report of the Health Committee of Session 2016-17 – Brexit and health and social care – people & process:**  
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhealth/640/640.pdf>
- **Seventh Report of the Health Committee of Session 2016-17 – Childhood obesity: follow-up:**  
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhealth/928/928.pdf>