



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Baroness Merron
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health

39 Victoria Street
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By email

25 January 2025

Dear Lady Winterton,

Thank you very much for your contribution to the Lords Urgent Question debate on Hospice Funding which took place on 6 January 2025. During this session, you inquired about the ways the Government could assist the hospice sector with training.

This Government will make sure the NHS has the staff it needs to be there for all of us when we need it, including at the end of life. As we expand the medical workforce, we will ensure there is growth in foundation placement capacity and specialty training places that meets the demands of the NHS in the future. NHS England will work with stakeholders to ensure this growth is sustainable and focused in the service areas where need is greatest.

To ensure the health and social care workforce, including volunteers, are equipped and well supported to deliver personalised care to people at the end of life, Health Education England, now part of NHS England, hosts the e-ELCA (End of Life Care for All e-learning) training programme. This training programme is available to charitable hospice's health and social care workforce and includes nine modules on improving care for people at the end of life. You can view the e-ELCA training here: [End-of-life Care For All \(e-ELCA\) - elearning for healthcare \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](https://e-lfh.org.uk).

In my response to you, I also said: "the fact that the majority of hospice care is provided through the NHS suggests that there is room for further co-operation between the independent hospice sector and the NHS", please can I use this opportunity to clarify this.

The correct statement should have been: "the fact that the majority of *palliative and end of life care* is provided through the NHS suggests that there is room for further co-operation between the independent hospice sector and the NHS.

I trust this response proves helpful and I have copied this letter to all Peers who spoke during the debate and will deposit this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

All good wishes,

BARONESS MERRON