



## **Response to health secretary statement on Agenda for Change deal implementation**

Joint work is due to start soon on implementing several measures not related to pay agreed as part of the recent NHS Agenda for Change pay deal.

The [measures](#), which include improving the safety of the NHS workforce, reviewing safer staffing and enhancing career progression for nurses, were part of the [agreement](#) reached last month, along with the one-off bonus payment for 2022/23 and the consolidated pay award for 2023/24.

In light of the impact on industrial relations in the NHS, the NHS Staff Council is particularly keen to engage with the review of the pay-setting process, in which the government will ask organisations for their thoughts on four key areas, including timing, appointments, data gathering and interactions with the Staff Council.

The work on the non-pay elements of the pay deal will be jointly led by the NHS Staff Council and the government, in collaboration with NHS Employers and NHS England. It will also include the involvement of other stakeholders such as NHS Providers and the Social Partnership Forum.

To make this happen there will be a programme board jointly chaired by the NHS Staff Council and the Department of Health and Social Care. Further detailed discussions are planned to take place at the next Staff Council Executive meeting in July.

Commenting on Steve Barclay's announcement, Sara Gorton, Joint Chair of the NHS Staff Council representing the unions said:

"As crucial as pay is, there are many other issues requiring action if the NHS is to become an attractive employer and successfully hold onto experienced staff and attract keen new recruits.

"Morale has taken a pummeling recently and staff will be hoping for swift progress on the issues attached to the deal."

Oonagh Monkhouse, the Joint Chair representing employers said:

"Employers represented by the NHS Staff Council welcome the opportunity to work with staff side colleagues and other partners on this range of important issues that so directly impact on a positive staff work experience and our ability to attract and retain staff."



**Sara Gorton, Staff Side co-chair**



**Oonagh Monkhouse, Employer Side  
co-chair**