



11 June 2024

Dear candidate,

We write to you as an alliance of health leaders deeply concerned about the impact the climate and ecological emergency is having, and will continue to have, on health and our health service.

Health professionals are already seeing first hand the damaging health consequences of heatwaves, air pollution, poor diets and lack of access to nature. The health impacts are felt at every stage of life, from increasing risk of pregnancy complications, more children suffering respiratory conditions, and more people over the age of 65 suffering strokes. Extreme weather is also adding additional pressure to our already stretched health service with overheating, flooding, and wildfires all resulting in infrastructure damage, disruption and cancellation of vital health services.

The next government of the UK will be leading at a pivotal moment in our nation's history when we need to transform our energy system, our food system, our health system, and our infrastructure to deliver a better, fairer and healthier society resilient to the threats of climate change.

We ask you to read our [manifesto](#), which outlines five priorities to sustain our environment, health, health and care services, and to commit, if elected, to all in your power to deliver these calls.

Our five priorities are:

- 1. End fossil fuel dependency**
By delivering a rapid, just transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy combined with policies that reduce energy demand
- 2. Ensure a healthy environment**
By delivering energy-efficient housing, improved public transport, access to active travel and green and blue spaces
- 3. Transform the food system**
By raising awareness and availability of healthy, nutritious plant-based food combined with support for farmers to transition to sustainable practices

4. Meet international commitments

By delivering global financial commitments and developing ways to increase financial investments to support climate and ecological action

5. Transform health and care services

By investing in health and care services, infrastructure, and human resources to enable change

Further details on the actions needed to deliver these priorities are outlined in our manifesto. We welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these aspects in more detail.

Kind regards,

Richard Smith, Chair UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

Dr Sarah Adibi, Chief Executive, Healthcare Infection Society

Professor Claire Anderson, President, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Rachel Armitage, Managing Director, RCNi

Professor Ramesh Arasaradnam, Academic Vice President, Royal College of Physicians

Dr Ashley Bond, Sustainability Lead, British Association of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

Ms Ginny Bowbrick, Co-Chair, Sustainability in Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of England

Lisa Butcher, President, Infection Prevention Society

Dr Helena Clements, Officer for Climate Change, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Dr Richard Davenport, President of the Association of British Neurologists

Dr Katrina Davies, Director and GP, on behalf of Greener Practice CIC directors

Professor Andrew Elder, President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Prof Kevin Fenton, President of the Faculty of Public Health

Dr Sarah Greenaway, Sustainability lead, Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland

Professor Kamila Hawthorne, Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners

Dr Shireen Kassem, Director of Plant-Based Health Professionals UK

Mrs Cleo Kenington, Sustainability lead, Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland

Patricia McCready RN, Finance Director of the British Association of Critical Care Nurses (BACCN)

Mike McKirdy, President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

Sarah Mistry, CEO, The British Geriatrics Society

Elaine Mulcahy, Director UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

Tracy Nicholls, OBE Chief Executive College of Paramedics

Dr Latifa Patel, Representative Body Chair, British Medical Association

Dr Marcia Philbin, Chief Executive, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine

Dr Alexander Robertson, Chair of the Environmental Specialist Interest Group, Royal College of Emergency Medicine

Dr Sandeep Siddhi, British Society of Gastroenterology

Dr Lade Smith CBE, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists

Mr Andrew Stevenson, Co-Chair, Sustainability in Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of England

Robin Stott, Ambassador, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

Dr Raneer Thakar, President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Prof Mike Wang, Chair, Association of Clinical Psychologists UK

Prof David Werring, President of the British and Irish Association of Stroke Physicians

Prof Rich Withnall, CEO, Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management