



**Dr Danny Chambers MP**  
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Dear Secretary of State,

I am calling on the government to take immediate action to address the appalling crisis at Winchester Hospital, which on Monday afternoon announced that it was full and could not admit any more patients.

This was an entirely predictable and avoidable situation.

At any one time, there are between 160- 200 people at our hospital in Winchester who are ready to be discharged but have nowhere to go.

This means that even on a typical day, the A&E Department struggles to find beds for those who need them. This leaves ambulances waiting outside, unable to attend emergencies, and routine operations are cancelled because of a lack of beds.

In winter, the situation is even worse because of the increase in illnesses such as COVID, flu, RSV and Norovirus.

I am therefore urging the government to fund 200 extra social care packages so patients can leave hospital as soon as they are well enough to do so.

This would make a massive difference to healthcare in this area. People needing emergency treatment would not be faced with what amounts to a closed hospital, and 200 additional care places would reduce waiting times for routine operations.

This would also make sense financially; it costs around £850 to keep someone in a hospital bed overnight, but less than half this amount to fund a social care package.

The current government is not responsible for the crisis in the NHS, but it has a responsibility to take practical and sensible measures to solve it. Winter comes every year, and the government needs to properly plan for it, not just accept that it is normal for hospitals to be full and unable to treat patients.

The people of Winchester deserve better - they deserve a hospital and an NHS that is there for them when they need it.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Danny Chambers MP**  
Member of Parliament for Winchester