



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health and Social Care  
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Our Ref: BC65988

8 January 2026

Dear Wes,

**Re: West and North London Integrated Care Board**

I am writing to you regarding the new West and North London Integrated Care Board (ICB). As you know, from April, the North West London and North Central London Integrated Care Boards will be merging. This will result in one single ICB serving 13 boroughs and approximately 4.5m residents and service users.

I would like to express my deep concern that the new Integrated Care Board will be serving too many areas with diverse health needs to deliver effective health services.

I am particularly concerned about how the new ICB will cater to each of the 13 boroughs' unique demographics, including size, age, and deprivation levels. Each of these factors are crucial in determining what healthcare an area needs.

For example, at the last census, the average ages in Enfield and Haringey were 37 and 36 respectively, both having increased by at least 3 years. Under the new West and North London ICB, patients in these two boroughs will be grouped with patients in Hackney, where the average age is 32, considerably younger. The needs of Hackney and Enfield will differ greatly, and different services will be demanded by the ICB in different areas. As ICBs have thus far used averages to determine the delivery of services, patients on either end of the age spectrum face the danger of not receiving the healthcare they need.

In addition, I am concerned about the implication of the merger on health inequalities in Southgate and Wood Green. It is already deeply concerning that there is a gap of 8 years and 8 months between the areas with the highest and lowest average life expectancies in my constituency. In some areas of Southgate and Wood Green, residents face more deprivation than 82% of neighbourhoods in England and have a life expectancy of 83. Contrast this with Westminster, where in some areas a person faces less deprivation than 72% of neighbourhoods in England and is expected to live until 91. It is, again, difficult to see how patients in these two areas could be considered as having similar healthcare needs and there is a high risk of those in poorer areas slipping through the cracks.

While I was pleased to see the North Central London ICB consulting their staff on this merger, I am concerned that this does not go far enough. I believe that any new ICB

must clearly consider each borough's unique demographic to meet the standards of the NHS' Model ICB Blueprint, where assessing population needs is identified as a priority.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could share with me how the new West and North London Integrated Care Board will consider the needs of each borough and offer reassurance that there will not be a 'one size fits all' approach.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bambos". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Bambos Charalambous MP