

# NICK CLEGG

## LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS HEADQUARTERS | 8-10 GREAT GEORGE STREET | LONDON | SW1P 3AE

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
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6 February 2015



Thank you for your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> January regarding the "100 Days" proposal. I absolutely agree that protecting the NHS and improving people's health and wellbeing is vitally important and will be a key issue for the next Government.

The NHS is having to adapt to meet the needs of an ageing population, where more and more people are living with long term conditions and where we continue to benefit from the development of new drugs and technologies which are helping to reduce preventable mortality but which place more pressure on budgets. It is clear that to keep the NHS sustainable there needs to be a combination of extra investment and continued efficiencies, as outlined by the NHS Chief Executive Simon Stevens in his report last year. In Government, Liberal Democrats have successfully pushed for extra funding for the NHS, having secured an extra £2bn for 2015/16 in the Autumn Statement. Ours is the first party to commit to investing an extra £8bn a year by 2020.

Yet, as a society, we need to do a much better job of preventing ill health in the first place; to look after ourselves, to keep healthy, to prevent deterioration, and – ultimately – to reduce dependence on statutory health and care services. Liberal Democrat policies support good, preventative measures to help improve the health and wellbeing of young people, including restricting the marketing of junk food to children and improving education on public health through statutory PSHE classes in every school. As well as this, Liberal Democrats would maintain the effective 5 a day campaign and extend this public health focus to mental health and wellbeing. We would encourage better awareness of the nutritional value of different foods, particularly through the wider use of the traffic light labelling system and the publication of information on calorie, fat, sugar and salt content in restaurants and takeaways (with an exemption for small and medium enterprises).

Through policies like these, aimed at instilling knowledge and good habits in younger people, I hope you will agree that we can not only help tackle the continuing concerns of childhood obesity but also help reduce pressure on the NHS for future generations.

Thank you again for your letter on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

**Nick Clegg MP**  
Leader of the Liberal Democrats

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Clegg', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.