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**The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt M.P.**

Chancellor of the Exchequer

His Majesty's Treasury

1 Horse Guards Road

LONDON

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Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Jeremy

**Insurance Premium Tax on Health Insurance**

In light of perpetually growing G.P. waiting lists within our National Health Service, as a result of crippling pandemic control measures such as lockdowns, I call upon you, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, to consider scrapping, or at least temporarily suspending, insurance premium tax on health insurance.

I am naturally aligned to tax-cuts as a matter of principle, but the weight and gravity of the current health crisis has drawn my views to this measure.

We need to incentivise those who have the means to utilise private healthcare to do so. Current rates of taxation on private health insurance is only driving millions of people to a massively overstretched NHS. The negative externality to this is that the poorest and most disadvantaged in our society are lacking the safety net which the NHS is meant to be.

I am of the opinion that it would make for judicious and prudent policymaking if you were to make cuts to I.P.T. and therefore encourage medium to high income earners to put their money into the private health sector and relieve the NHS of a portion of the burden.

This issue has been drawn clearly to my attention following correspondence with one of my constituents - a gentleman who come south from Lancashire shortly after the Second World War. He has laboured for the duration of his working life and was a cog in the nation's recovery after years of gruelling warfare. Now in his senior years, is it right that he and his wife are taxed to both sustain their own good health while also reducing the cost incurred by the NHS?

I understand that now is a volatile time to reconsider decisions surrounding fiscal policy, but it will only cost the nation more in the long run if we allow the NHS to suffer under its current strains.

I look forward to hearing your response and hearing what plans the Treasury intend to put in place to alleviate this serious issue.

Yours ever,