

Is the government's £10 billion NHS funding commitment more than NHS leaders asked for?

Last updated: 05 Oct 2016

In brief

Claim

The Conservative government is investing an extra £10 billion in the NHS, more than its leaders asked for.

Conclusion

The government's £10 billion commitment isn't all of what NHS leaders asked for, and isn't as generous as it sounds.

“the Conservative party...investing an extra £10 billion in the NHS – more than its leaders asked for”

Theresa May, [5 October 2016](#)

This claim shouldn't be taken at face value.

NHS England said in 2014 that £8 billion was the minimum it needed by 2020 to fill the [£30 billion](#) estimated NHS funding gap. That relies on the NHS finding the remaining £22 billion in savings.

The government's commitment of £10 billion, rather than £8 billion, isn't as generous as it sounds. The £8 billion requested was to cover a [five year period](#). The £10 billion [counts](#) funding for an extra year—the last year of the previous parliament—which wasn't covered by the NHS's spending options anyway.

The NHS is set to get about £8 billion over the course of this parliament, taking inflation into account.

It's also not all of what the NHS asked for. The NHS [said](#) that its ambitions for savings were [only possible](#) “provided we take action in prevention, invest in new care models, sustain social care services, and... see...wider system improvements”.

The government's £8 billion commitment refers specifically to the [NHS England](#) budget. Outside of this, spending on public health is [expected](#) to fall over this parliament, and spending on social care is expected to continue to fall short of what's needed.

That means total health spending in England—including areas such as public health and social care as well as NHS England—will only rise by [£4.5 billion](#) over the same period, according to leading healthcare think tanks.

Image courtesy of [david pacey](#)

This factcheck is part of a roundup of Theresa May's party conference speech. [Read the roundup.](#)

By Full Fact Team

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