



BY EMAIL

Simon Stevens
Chief Executive
NHS England

2 December 2017

Dear Mr Stevens,

Re: £35.20

I am sorry to trouble you at a hectic time but I think NHS England should reimburse me for £35.20 travel expenses (£28.20 train ticket and £7.00 parking).

The NHS England Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES) team invited me to an event on 30 November 2017 but declined to pay my travel expenses even though I am an unwaged whistleblower, following whistleblowing adventures in the NHS.

The WRES team maintained by correspondence, and then through a further approach to me in person at the 30 November event, that it could not pay my expenses on the basis that otherwise, all other delegate's

expenses would have to be paid. It was in fact stated to me that WRES “never” pay anybody’s expenses at all.

I found only one other whistleblower at the event, who is working. To my knowledge, all the other attendees were employees of public institutions and I doubt they would be required to pay travel expenses out of their own pockets.

I think if NHS England invites members of the public who have no organisational budget to draw on, to contribute time and labour, the least it should do is reimburse travel expenses, in line with the principles of its Patient and Public Voice policy.*

I was especially concerned to be told that WRES “never” pay any expenses, as this raises a question of parity with NHS England’s other participative exercises where expenses are paid, which rather goes against the grain of what WRES is about.

Obviously, I raise a matter of principle but in terms of practicalities (and I appreciate you may not know this), £35.20 can keep an adult well supplied in groceries from Lidl supermarket for a whole week.

As you may have noticed, the relevant receipts are attached. If you will agree to reimburse me, NHS England already has my bank details from previous payment of travel expenses.

Wishing you all festive greetings and hoping that some small corner can be found at the inn,

Minh

Dr Minh Alexander

Cc Yvonne Coghill NHS England Director or WRES Programme
Neil Churchill NHS England Participation and Experience Director
Prof Mala Rao Vice Chair WRESAG and Chair of WRES Academic
and Data meeting 30 November 2017

*NHS England guidance document: “Working with our Patient and Public Voice Partners – Reimbursing expenses and paying involvement payments”

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/patient-and-public-voice-partners-expenses-policy-oct-17.pdf>