



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

**CARE**

30 September 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The Secretary of State recently announced a £478m funding package to continue the hospital discharge programme until 31st March 2022 so that patients can leave hospitals as quickly and as safely as possible, with the right community or at-home support. This additional funding is to ensure health and social care systems are able to respond to demand for services over the winter period. This includes the continued use of designated settings, which have been vital in our response to preventing COVID-19 outbreaks in care settings.

The government's position remains that any patient who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days should not be discharged into a care home. The discharge funding should be used to ensure each local authority has access to designated settings provision. To continue to support those designated settings that are unable to obtain sufficient insurance cover to accept COVID-19 patients on discharge from hospital, the Government is extending the Designated Settings Indemnity Support (DSIS) until 31st March 2022.

Decisions should continue to be made at a local level about how best to deliver designated settings over the coming months, including where such settings are shared with neighbouring authorities, in partnership with the NHS.

Thank you as always for your ongoing efforts throughout the pandemic.

Yours sincerely

Claire Armstrong  
Director, Adult Social Care Delivery and Covid-19 response