

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

23 July 2026

Dear Prime Minister

As organisations representing providers of social care across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, we are writing to urge you to exempt social care providers from the recent increases to employers' National Insurance contributions (eNICs).

We welcome the emphasis you have placed on the crucial importance of social care over the past few weeks and since you became UK Prime Minister.

Social care is fundamental to the wellbeing, independence and dignity of millions of people. Recognition of its vital role is needed more than ever at a time when our sector faces severe instability.

Across the UK from April 2025, all commissioned providers in the third and independent sector were hit by increases to eNICs, without the equivalent relief offered to public sector colleagues. Our members report that this additional financial burden has resulted in fewer resources for frontline services and reduced capacity at a time where demand for social care continues to grow.

We note the comments you have made in recent media interviews about problems with the way changes to eNICs were implemented, and the consequences.

The policy affects commissioned providers of social care – and by extension their staff and the people they support – across the whole of the UK. Only the UK Government can turn this around.

Amendments to exempt social care providers from the increases [were passed](#) in the House of Lords with cross-party support in February 2025 – but then overturned by the government in the House of Commons.

We urge you to consider revisiting such an exemption at pace.

This would be a vital first step in providing relief to a sector under immense pressure while, across the UK, more work is done to ensure social care provision can flourish, sustainably, at the heart of our communities.

Yours sincerely,

*Martin Green, Chief Executive, **Care England***

*Melanie Minty, Interim Chief Executive, **Care Forum Wales / Fforwm Gofal Cymru***

*Rachel Cackett, CEO, **Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS)***

*Jane Townson, CEO, **Homecare Association***

*Pauline Shepherd, CEO, **Independent Health & Care Providers (Northern Ireland)***

*Vic Rayner, CEO, **National Care Forum***

*Professor Donald Macaskill, CEO, **Scottish Care***

*Dr Rhidian Hughes, Chief Executive, **Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG)***

