



## **Here is a little more detail of Hunt's statements to Health Select Committee Monday 22nd Jan 2018**

1. First Hunt said that although Brexit regulations “ are going to take up pretty much all Parliamentary time when it comes to secondary legislation... What we are going to do that will sit very well with your own inquiry is that NHS England have said this week that they will have a full public consultation into the new ACO contract.”

2. Then he said that he hoped that the Committee's inquiry would feed into NHS England's consultation and that he would look into the Parliamentary timetable - with three BUTS:

“But what I don't want to do is if we have some very important steps forward in terms of integrated care, I don't want to hold that up but I will look at what's possible but what I want to do is find a way where whatever we end up with is something your committee is able to feed into.”

Then he said

“Because NHS England is doing a full public consultation that discussion [about whether the regulations should be delayed to allow full public discussion of concerns raised ] will happen and your committee will feed into that and we will take note of any conclusions that are made in terms of regulations that are put before Parliament.”

3. Then Wollaston said,

“So you are going to delay them”

Hunt replied

“No I've said I'll talk to the whips about the timing and that's not entirely in my hands but there will be the chance ...to feed into that public consultation.”

4. Then Wollaston pointed out,

“Once regulations have been laid and passed, they're there.”

Hunt replied:

Were it to be the case that the consultation of NHS England - consultations can advise that regulations should be changed - were it - because I'm not necessarily saying they will be laid, I'm just saying...it's not entirely within my hands about the timing of those regulations - but it's entirely possible that consultation can recommend that regulations are changed.”

5. Wollaston interrupted:

“... the clear request from this committee is that you say to us you are going to go to the whips and ask them and make the case for delaying them until after this process.”

Hunt replied:

“We will absolutely consider the request of the committee when we are discussing the Parliamentary timetable but...we will also - which I don't think you are giving a lot of credit to - have a full public consultation about these contracts. We are committed as NHS England and the government that we will listen carefully to the outcome of that consultation carefully in the way that we implement the ACO policy.

That wasn't the case when we had our original discussions and when you wrote your original letter so I think that is a very big step forward for people who are concerned that - and this isn't the case - that this is a vehicle for privatisation.”

6. Wollaston:

“What I'm asking is that you as SoS ask the government to listen to what we're saying”

Hunt:

“We will listen to anything the Select Committee says as we always do.”

SW laughs delightedly and says nothing.

Ben Bradshaw comes in to put Hunt entirely at his ease, asking if he didn't regret using the term ACOs since with its American connotations this was always going to be "a red rag" to the campaigners' "bull"? And then Bradshaw said that the ACO proposals are " sensible vertical and horizontal integration that could overcome the internal market and be very positive"

At which point Hunt sat back for the first time in the meeting and smiled.

You can check the sources for yourself - Letters between Wollaston and Hunt are downloadable here: <http://bit.ly/2DC7cPE>

Relevant bit of the Health Select Committee 23.1.18 video starts around 16.40 ish, the video is on the Parliament website here: <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/70452f3d-4f8b-4db0-9177-fd8e7fda9343> here and here