Dear candidate,

As a healthcare professional working with older people in constituency name, I am writing to share the British Geriatrics Society’s calls for the incoming Government.

The British Geriatrics Society (BGS) is the membership organisation for healthcare professionals working with older people in the UK. Formed in 1947, the BGS now has over 5,000 members across the multidisciplinary team.

The population of the UK is ageing. By 2045, there will be 15 million people of pensionable age in the UK with the largest increase occurring in the oldest age groups. The number of people aged 85 and over is projected to double in the same period.[[1]](#endnote-2) In \*insert region here\* \*\*% of the population was aged over 65 in 2018. This is projected to rise to \*\*% by 2043. An ageing population is cause for celebration – advances in medicine and improved lifestyles mean people are living longer than ever before and contributing to society.

However, this also means more people living longer with increasingly complex health needs, which will have a profound impact on demand for health services. Up to half of those aged 85 and over live with frailty.[[2]](#footnote-2) In addition, there will be a substantial increase in the number of people living with multimorbidity.[[3]](#footnote-3) An NHS fit for the future means an NHS fit for the increasing number of older people living with complex needs. It is vital that the next Government recognises these realities of an ageing population and takes the opportunity to plan ahead and make health services work better for everyone.

In order for the NHS and social care services to best serve the ageing population, the BGS has made the following ten calls of the incoming Government across the themes of workforce, social care and improving the whole patient journey.

***Provision of person-centred care – before, during and after ill health***

1. Embed the BGS Blueprint as the basis for integrated, person-centred, age-attuned care across the NHS.
2. Prioritise prevention and proactive care to enable older people to live healthy, independent lives for longer and reduce unplanned hospital admissions.
3. Invest in services that prioritise treating older people quickly and discharging them on the same day where appropriate. This has benefits for patients as long stays in hospital are often harmful for older people. This also frees up capacity in hospitals, enabling more people to be treated.
4. Invest in rehabilitation services, ensuring that older people are given the best chance at recovery from ill health.

***A fully trained and sustainable workforce***

1. Ensure the workforce needs for healthcare in an ageing society are met by setting a benchmark across the UK of one geriatrician per 500 people over the age of 85.
2. Increase the number of medical school places and reform medical training so that it remains an attractive career for graduates.
3. Ensure that professionals across the multidisciplinary team and across care settings are supported to develop the skills needed to care for older people with increasing levels of frailty and multimorbidity.
4. Mandate frailty training for all professionals working in the NHS. This includes all generalist staff and specialists in most other specialties, with the exceptions of obstetrics and paediatrics.

***A long-term solution to social care***

1. Remove barriers to careers in social care by increasing pay, improving terms and conditions and ensuring visa arrangements are in place to allow care staff to come to the UK and to bring their families.
2. Implement a long-term, sustainable social care system.

More details about the BGS’s asks can be found at: [www.bgs.org.uk/GE2024](http://www.bgs.org.uk/GE2024). I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how you can support these asks and ensure that older people in our community receive the care they need, when and where they need it.

Yours sincerely,

BGS member

1. Office for National Statistics, 2022. *National population projections: 2020-based interim*. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/nationalpopulationprojections/2020basedinterim> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. Frailty is defined as the inability to recover from periods of ill health. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Multimorbidity is defined as living with two or more long term conditions. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)