**Draft NNA statement on the Government response to the HoL Pre-term Birth Report**

In 2024 the Neonatal Nurses Association (NNA) gave [oral](https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/14598/html/) and written evidence at the House of Lords Pre-term Birth Inquiry. The cross-party committee published their report ‘[Preterm birth: reducing risks and improving lives](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld5901/ldselect/ldpreterm/30/30.pdf)’ in November 2024, which the NNA was pleased to see highlight workforce issues.

The Government has now [responded](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-house-of-lords-inquiry-into-preterm-birth-reducing-risks-and-improving-lives/government-response-to-the-house-of-lords-inquiry-into-preterm-birth-reducing-risks-and-improving-lives) to the report. The NNA welcomes the focus on Neonatal Outreach, Family Integrated Care including parental accommodation, and psychological support, though we do now need to see these services commissioned and supported nationally.

We are pleased to see the government response acknowledge the difficulties within maternity and neonatal services and speak to existing workforce issues. However, the NNA feels more focus is required on the neonatal nursing workforce.

The government response states that neonatal nurses can complete QiS, however, the government must ensure neonatal nurses are supported to complete this training and that neonatal unit managers receive funding to backfill nurses during their QiS training and including supernumerary time. There is an existing unmet national benchmark of 70% of neonatal nurses to be QiS. This has not been achieved across most neonatal networks. The reasons for this must be explored.

The NNA are calling for QiS nurses to move from Agenda for Change band 5 to band 6 following a period of consolidation. We are also calling for nurses to have protected time to complete quality improvement projects and further education. See our position statements [here](https://nna.org.uk/position-statements/).

The NNA supports the NHSE long-term workforce plan including enhanced, advanced and consultant practice roles as they are central to transforming neonatal healthcare service delivery.

The NNA will continue to feed into national work around the 10-year plan. We have submitted a response to the change consultation and several joint responses with collaborators.