**The Rt. Hon Matt Hancock MP**

Secretary of State for Health & Social Care

Department for Health & Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

January 2020

To the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care,

Recently I attended the Annual Parliamentary Reception of the Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI), which provided fascinating insight into the importance of the HealthTech industry in the UK. It was a pleasure to hear you speak, and I found your contribution enlightening.

I was interested to see the launch of ABHI’s Chief Innovation Officer campaign at this event, which I am pleased to support. The campaign aims to ensure that every NHS Trust appoints a dedicated Chief Innovation Officer whose role will enable hospitals to deliver efficiencies whilst adopting life changing HealthTech. As highlighted in [a report by](https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/files/2017-12/1513183510_nt-innovation-briefing-scc-web-2.pdf) the Nuffield Trust, *‘Identifying the most pressing problems and looking for solutions is rarely built into anyone’s day job – least of all clinicians. Chief innovation officers with board oversight of the innovation process could make a fundamental difference.’*

I would be keen for you to join me in supporting this campaign to enable patients to gain greater access to life-changing HealthTech across the NHS. A Chief Innovation Officer in every NHS Trust could help deliver the ground-level changes needed to enact the Conservative Party Manifesto commitment to making the UK the world’s leading Life Sciences Hub. Such a champion can also support the broader uptake of innovative HealthTech, which will lead to patients living longer, healthier lives.

I urge you to meet with the ABHI to discuss this worthwhile campaign and how it can be taken forward. Please contact Eleanor.Charsley@abhi.org.uk if you would like to arrange this meeting.

Yours sincerely,