

Frequently Asked Questions

Q | Is Healthwatch definitely closing?

A At this stage, there has been no final decision, but it does seem likely.

Q | When will we know more?

A We hope things will be clearer after the second meeting with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in January 2026. More announcements are likely to follow in the King's Speech in early 2026. We don't know the date of the King's speech yet.

Q | What does this mean for Healthwatch Derbyshire?

A For now it is business as usual. We continue to:

- Listen to people's health and social care feedback to help shape services
- Provide support and advice to local people
- Continue with any of our planned project work.

Q | What will new legislation change?

A New legislation has not yet been drafted. We know that new legislation will:

- Officially close Healthwatch
- Close NHS England
- Change how Integrated Care Boards work
- Make big changes across health and social care laws.

The government has said that the NHS will cover patient voice and feedback for healthcare, and the DHSC will cover social care services.

We have raised concerns about splitting feedback and patient voices between health and social care. DHSC have listened to our concerns. They've agreed to consider these when looking at the new changes.

Q | How will Healthwatch carry on until 2027?

A We have been told that funding for local Healthwatch is likely to continue until March 2027. This lines up with the timeline of when any new legislation will become law.

Q | Will the organisations being set up still be independent?

A We don't know. The King's Fund is exploring potential future options. We will know more once government proposals are published. Healthwatch is working with The King's Fund to try to shape the new services the best they can.

Q | What is happening nationally?

A Redundancies will go ahead within the NHS. NHS England is also going to be abolished. The NHS is also going to be restructured. Healthwatch England's role will become part of the DHSC.