



## Reimbursement of Travel Costs in England

Jointstatement on behalf of the NHS Staff Council – June 2026

### Introduction

In response to the rising cost of fuel, the NHS Staff Council has been discussing what this means for staff and employers in relation to the business cost of travel and motoring.

The NHS Staff Council acknowledges the impact that the rising cost of fuel prices is having on staff, particularly those who work in a community setting and who need to use their own cars to deliver community care to patients.

### National work to address the impact of the rising cost of fuel

The NHS Staff Council has recently renegotiated the [mechanism used to calculate mileage reimbursement](#) under [Section 17: Reimbursement of travel costs](#), which took effect from 1 June 2026.

One of the key improvements with the new mechanism is that it responds to changes in the overall cost of motoring, rather than focusing on fuel prices alone. This represents a significant shift from the previous system, which only resulted in changes to reimbursement rates after sustained changes in fuel prices.

From 1 June 2026, the current rates of reimbursement for staff covered by Section 17 will increase and from 1 July 2026 the mileage threshold will increase from 3,500 miles to 4,500 miles. The first review of mileage rates will take place in October 2026, with any changes implemented from 1 January 2027.

Where local partnerships of employers and trade unions have agreed alternative arrangements to the provisions in Section 17 of the NHS TCS Handbook, local partnerships are encouraged to review their existing local agreements in light of the new national provisions. Additional funding has been issued through usual funding flow mechanisms.

These new national provisions come at the same time as the government announcement to increase the HMRC Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rates by 10p to 55p for the first 10,000 miles. This will mean employers are able to apply additional tax relief on NHS reimbursement rates backdated to 1 April 2026.

### Local partnership discussions on additional support

Employers should work in partnership with their local staff side to agree what additional support can be provided for staff struggling with the increase in fuel and motoring costs who use their own, or a lease vehicle for work purposes.



Local partnerships should discuss further options to reduce travel by staff and the use of greener alternatives where possible, practical, and safe to do so. For example, switching to in person appointments to virtual appointments temporarily

For staff facing financial challenges, employers could consider some of the following measures:

1. free or discounted car parking at workplaces
2. receipting fuel
3. providing fuel cards for staff
4. providing hire cars for staff
5. providing public transport travel passes
6. investing in pool cars for teams
7. paying travel expenses weekly rather than monthly
8. advancing mileage expenses rather paying in arrears
9. encouraging carpooling
10. financial support for other increases to cost of living expenses



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