



19 October

## HFMA comment

**Paul Briddock, Director of Policy, Healthcare Financial Management Association:** “We welcome the news that over the last year the NHS has reduced spending on agency staff and we support the previous and new measures put in place to scrutinise and manage agency cost overspend.

“Despite the positive progress to date, there is still the issue of excess premium rates paid on agency staff, which is a major pressure on costs and can only be partly resolved if a pricing cap is introduced. In the long term, it’s important we also address the subject of supply and demand, which would see the sector increasing resource in the NHS workforce, to eliminate the agency spend cycle we are currently in.

“Although today’s news is very encouraging, the issue of agency staff costs will continue to be difficult to manage unless the NHS also redesigns services across wider geographical patches to provide a much more sustainable service for the future.”

## HFMA

The HFMA is the voice of 10,000 NHS finance directors and finance staff working in healthcare. HFMA is a registered charity and the only professional body in the UK dedicated to setting and promoting the highest standards in financial management and governance in healthcare, through encouraging more effective use of resources.

Their membership represents the majority of NHS finance directors and NHS finance staff. As the voice of two thirds of NHS finance staff (with 90% working in the NHS), HFMA’s membership includes CEOs, directors of finance, clinicians and practice managers, as well as other staff at all levels of the finance function.

As well as promoting best practice, they also offer education and CPD resources for the UK health economy through both their local and national networks

Further information about HFMA activities can be found on their website – [www.hfma.org.uk](http://www.hfma.org.uk) or through their Twitter channel, @HFMA\_UK

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