

# ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

David Smith  
Chief Executive  
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Jubilee House  
5510 John Smith Drive  
Oxford Business Park South  
Oxford  
OX4 2LH

12<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Ref: AL/TG/1701

*Dear Mr Smith*

Thank you for meeting today with me and my colleagues, Victoria Prentis MP and Robert Courts MP, and please accept my apologies for having to leave to attend another meeting. I am grateful for being able to put my constituents' concerns to you directly; my Parliamentary Assistant, Tommy Gilchrist, has updated me on what was discussed in the remainder of the meeting.

My constituents and I are still concerned that the consultation remains split into two phases. This has caused confusion over what is being consulted on and when; my parliamentary colleagues and I have struggled to make sense of what was being proposed. It would appear that the future of acute services at the Horton including obstetrics will be considered in Phase 1 whilst MLUs and maternity services across Oxfordshire fall into Phase 2. We find it hard to understand how the permanent closure of obstetrics (and therefore the downgrading of the Horton to MLU-only) can be separated from county-wide MLU provision.

The consultation document refers throughout to the population and requirements of Oxfordshire. The only reference to South Northamptonshire occurs midway through – Brackley is mentioned on page 34 – where it is stated that *women from North Oxfordshire and the Brackley area who need to deliver in an obstetric unit can choose to give birth at the John Radcliffe in Oxford or in Northampton or Warwick hospitals (with women requiring specialist care continuing to receive it in Oxford as before)*.

There is no inclusion of the obstetrics services provided by Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; Milton Keynes isn't mentioned once. However, on page 33 the consultation document does refer to women in Oxfordshire and the surrounding area having the choice to give birth at the John Radcliffe or an obstetric unit outside Oxfordshire. The suggested options list units in Northampton, Warwick, the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, the Great Western Hospital in Swindon and Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury. I'm sure you'd agree that there are many mothers in South Northamptonshire who would much prefer to attend the obstetrics unit in Milton Keynes rather than travel all the way to Oxford!

*Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire*

Many local residents have written to me about their concerns over the future of the Horton. I recall the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on the future of the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust. Specifically that the IRP did not support the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals (ORH) NHS Trust's proposals to reconfigure services in paediatrics, obstetrics, gynaecology and the special care baby unit at Horton Hospital. The IRP did not consider that this would provide an accessible or improved service to the people of north Oxfordshire and surrounding areas.

Tommy raised the leaflet drop across South Northamptonshire with you. Our understanding is that all households in South Northants will receive a leaflet on their doorstep, although he informs me that you told him this wasn't the case and only households near the Oxfordshire border would be delivered to. I can absolutely assure you that I have received letters and emails from people all over South Northamptonshire and that this consultation affects all of my constituents. This isn't just about the future of services at the Horton but also the impact on those who use hospitals in Northampton and Milton Keynes, which your own consultation document suggests will receive an increase in the number of people using their services. My constituents across South Northamptonshire are as much your stakeholders as those people who are resident in Oxfordshire, especially for maternity and stroke services at the Horton.

I very much hope that the consultation document is revised to take into account these concerns, although I am unsure how you will be able to do this ahead of your deadline for the launch of this coming Monday (16<sup>th</sup> January). I sincerely hope that my constituents will be able to see details about journey times, hospital capacity, expected growth in population, etc. for Milton Keynes and the wider area outside of Oxfordshire in the consultation document to allow them to respond meaningfully.

As I do not believe that I received a response to my letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> November (copy attached), please could you ensure that I do receive a response to this one.

With best wishes,



The Rt Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP  
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

[Enc.]

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25<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Ref: AL/TG/1611

*Dear Mr Smith*

I write on behalf of my constituents in South Northamptonshire who use the Horton General Hospital and other health services in Oxfordshire. Most of those who have been in touch live in the Middleton Cheney – Brackley – Aynho triangle, although I have received concerns from people living across the area. Whilst many of my constituents continue to be worried about the long-term future of maternity and stroke services at the Horton, given the downgrading from obstetrics to a midwife-led unit and the closure of the Oak Ward, I have now been asked to raise their concerns about the upcoming consultation on your Service Transformation Plan.

I understand from your website that “*Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) has a structure which enables you to have your voice heard by those making decisions about healthcare in the county*”<sup>1</sup>.

My constituents feel exceptionally strongly that splitting the consultation into two, to straddle the purdah period in 2017, will not allow an adequate overview or scrutiny of the proposals being put forward by OCCG. I share the concerns of my Oxfordshire colleagues, who I believe wrote to you earlier in the month, that any clarity in your plans will be diluted. I would ask that the OCCG reconsiders its decision on this matter, and puts its full proposals in front of my constituents so that they may have a chance to comment upon the STP as a whole.

Given the intense interest in this matter locally, I shall be placing a copy of this letter – and any response I receive – on my website for my constituents to read.

With best wishes,

*Andrea Leadsom*

The Rt Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP  
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

<sup>1</sup> How We Work | Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group | <http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/how-we-work/> | Nov 2016

*Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire*