

ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
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20th January 2017

Ref: AL/TG/1702

Dear Jeremy

Further to our recent conversations about the Horton General Hospital in Banbury, used by my constituents in South Northamptonshire, I understand that the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) has made the decision to refer the suspension of obstetrics at the Horton to you.

I am aware that Victoria Prentis MP, in whose constituency the Horton is situated, is writing to you to support the referral by HOSC. I think it would certainly reassure many of my constituents if you were able to send this matter to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel for a review; you will recall that the IRP's view in 2008 was that they felt the proposed changes would not provide an accessible or improved service.

I recognise that the Oxford University Hospitals Trust is facing some considerable pressures to recruit and retain obstetricians in the local area, but this is a forward-planning matter that the Trust should have foreseen especially given the views of the IRP over eight years ago.

My constituents are exceptionally concerned about the loss of obstetrics in their area and, amongst many other issues, the proposed travel times to the John Radcliffe in Oxford, Milton Keynes University Hospital, or Northampton General. I attach a copy of my letter of the 2nd February to Ian Davies, Director of Operational Delivery at Cherwell District Council, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Community Partnership Network which summarises these concerns.

I should be most pleased to attend any meeting that you set up with Victoria to discuss this further, please do let me know.

With best wishes,

Andrea

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

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