



Department
of Health

From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health

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POC_1097166

The Lord Bernard Ribeiro
Chair
Independent Reconfiguration Panel
6th Floor
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
London
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10 JAN 2018

Dear Benie,

Referral of the permanent closure of consultant-led maternity services at the Horton General Hospital Formal referral under Regulation 23(9) of the Local Authority (Public Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013

I am writing to request the initial advice of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) in relation to the above referral.

The advice should be provided by Friday 9th February in line with the agreed protocol between the Department of Health and the IRP.

Given the significant concerns raised by neighbouring local authorities, I would like you to consider whether your inquiries should include them within scope. The OSC's referral letter mentions Cherwell District Council, and we have received letters from Stratford Upon Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council. These will be forwarded to the IRP secretariat separately, but I should like to draw your attention to the issue of which local authorities have oversight and scrutiny responsibilities, and your advice on how CCGs can in practice address these challenges would be most welcome.

You may also consider that this standalone proposal needs to be looked at in the wider context of changes across the STP more generally, and the IRP's advice on whether and how that could be done, or done better, would also be most welcome, given the complication of the current judicial review.

I would be grateful if you could contact Neil Townley in Provider Policy here at the Department of Health on 020 7210 5244 if you require any additional information at this stage.

I enclose copies of my letters to the OSC and CCG informing them of my decision.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Hunt', is positioned above the printed name.

JEREMY HUNT