

THE RT. HON. ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

14th August 2017

Ref: AL/TG/1708

Dear Mr Smith

I share the disappointment of many of my constituents over the decisions taken by the OCCG Board at its recent meeting to make permanent the temporary downgrading of obstetrics services at the Horton General Hospital to a midwife led unit.

I do not intend in this letter to rehash the arguments that you have already heard; the Board has clearly made its decision.

However, you will be aware that the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked the Secretary of State for Health to refer this decision to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. This joins the two existing referrals before the Secretary of State for consideration, as well as the ongoing judicial review appeal by the four councils.

It would be most improper for the CCG to in any way implement the decisions taken at the Board meeting until full consideration has been given to the referrals and the judicial review. I trust that no action will be taken until such time.

I would add that, although business in Parliament in my capacity as Leader of the House prevented me from being able to attend the Board meeting, I was grateful to my colleagues Victoria Prentis and Robert Courts for raising issues of common concern. That said, I understand that no discussion was had by any member of the Board about those patients, like my constituents, who use the Horton from outside of Oxfordshire. We continue to be an afterthought to your processes.

With best wishes,

Andrea Leadsom

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

Cc: The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health
Yvonne Rees, Joint Chief Executive of South Northants District Council
Victoria Prentis MP
Robert Courts MP

Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire