



**Oxfordshire
Clinical Commissioning Group**

The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP
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23 August 2017

Dear Andrea

Thank you for your letter dated 14 August. The Board's consideration of the five proposals was thorough and had to take into account the available clinical evidence, current workforce matters, clinical views and safety issues as well as the views of a wide variety of partners and stakeholders. Our decisions were all taken based on ensuring the safety and sustainability of services available to Oxfordshire residents (and those of surrounding counties).

We understand the strength of feeling among local people, especially those who live in the north of the county and beyond; but we believe the decisions we have made will ensure safe and sustainable patient care for now and the future.

As you will recall we held two public events in Brackley both of which were very well attended. Appendix 7.6 of the Consultation Report, which is available on our website (www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk), sets out the media coverage and advertising for the consultation that clearly illustrates the breadth of cover including across the border in South Northamptonshire. Consultation briefing packs were distributed in January 2017 in South Northamptonshire; these were put on display for patients in all three GP practices in Brackley and Byfield.

We also engaged with local GPs in Brackley and Byfield through visiting the practices and explaining the proposals and possible impact on patients. At one of the practices in Brackley, patient representatives were also present during the discussion. We briefed Nene CCG on the proposals; they confirmed that they accepted the proposals and would adjust their future commissioning intentions as a result. We also briefed Northampton General Hospital and they confirmed they had sufficient capacity in obstetrics.

We will now work with our health and social care partners to ensure the recommendations we have approved are carried out in the best interests of patients. However we will not be taking any action to make the changes to maternity services at the Horton permanent until the referral process has run its course. Whilst the referral process is ongoing the temporary closure of the obstetric services at the Horton will

remain in place; as there are still not enough middle grade doctors available. The Midwife led unit will continue to run with the current staffing model and provision of a dedicated ambulance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

David Smith
Chief Executive