



Mr David Smith
Chief Executive
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
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8 March 2017

Dear David

I am concerned that there seems to be some confusion about future ambulance provision at the Horton General Hospital should the suspension of the obstetric unit become permanent.

As you will know, under current arrangements a static ambulance is based at the hospital to ensure that any transfers can be undertaken as speedily as possible, as and when the situation arises.

However, your consultation document does not appear to explain how transfers will be carried out under any future arrangement, and any discussion of ambulance provision is noticeably lacking. While the Pre-Consultation Business Case refers to the fact that a standby ambulance is currently provided under the temporary arrangement, no further details are provided about what will happen should support be found for the proposal to make the downgrade permanent.

You will recall that ambulance provision has been discussed at the various consultation meetings. In Banbury the panel tried to reassure my constituents that the static ambulance could be retained; at Chipping Norton attendees were given a less reassuring answer when questioned; and I understand that at the special JHOSC meeting yesterday the Committee was told that a static ambulance would not be provided if Banbury becomes a permanent MLU. It seems as though a different tone has been adopted by the CCG when speaking to different groups in the county on this specific matter.

I find it extremely concerning that the CCG has not been able to give a coherent and consistent answer to the question of ambulance provision. It is essential for all my constituents to understand the proposals in their entirety. We are now more than seven weeks into the Phase One consultation, yet the general public still cannot access the information it needs to make an informed contribution to the exercise. You will know that travel time to the John Radcliffe is the principal concern for all of us in the north of the county and beyond. The fact that the consultation paper does not provide specific information about how transfers will be undertaken in the event of any emergency is a serious oversight.

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I would be grateful if you could clarify the CCG's plans as soon as possible. Given the inextricable link between the CCG's plans and South Central Ambulance NHS Trust's ability to deliver what is being proposed, I will be sending a copy of this letter to the SCAS Chief Executive.

Yours

Victoria

Victoria Prentis MP