

VICTORIA PRENTIS MP



Simon Stevens
Chief Executive
NHS England
PO Box 16738
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VIA EMAIL

4 March 2019

Dear Simon

I understand that NHS England has recently taken the decision to change the provider of the regional PET-CT scanning service in Oxfordshire which is currently delivered by the Cancer and Haematology Centre at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford. Following a period of competitive tender, a new contract has been awarded to an external provider, "InHealth". I am very disappointed to hear about the change in arrangements, not least because I was under the impression that the Churchill Hospital has always run an extremely efficient PET-CT scan service for cancer patients.

I am extremely concerned that any potential change to the service could have an adverse impact on the multi-disciplinary arrangements already in place at the Churchill. Specifically, outsourcing a key service to an offsite provider could make it more difficult for the necessary clinicians from the various disciplines (including surgeons, oncologists, radiotherapists) to meet to decide on the best course of treatment for each patient. I am also dismayed that a decision seems to have been taken with no prior consultation with Oxfordshire's joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and there has been no communication from NHS England to key parties, including Members of Parliament.

Having received a number of emails on this matter, I know my constituents also share my concerns. I would therefore welcome a clear explanation of the background to this change in provision, and a better understanding of how NHS England reached its decision.

Given their oversight function, I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours

Victoria

Victoria Prentis MP

Cc: Cllr Arash Fatemian, Oxfordshire County Council

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