

Your ref:  
Our Ref: PH7583

Specialised Commissioning  
NHS England  
Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London  
SE1 6LH

Victoria Prentis MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

3 April 2019

Dear Ms Prentis,

**Re: Cancer Services at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford**

Thank you for your letter of 4 March about the procurement of Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scanning services for the Thames Valley area.

NHS England completed a first phase of procurement for PET-CT services in England in 2014-15 to replace a number of contracts that were close to expiry. A second phase, which included the Thames Valley area, is now nearing completion. The decision to commence the current phase of procurement was taken in-line with the current legislative and regulatory framework and was informed by a Prior Information Notice, together with a period of public engagement. In both cases, NHS England has secured both improved patient access, with the opening of many more scanning locations across England, at better value for patients and taxpayers.

With regard to the Thames Valley PET-CT services, I can confirm that the tender response submitted by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust did not score highest. InHealth's tender response achieved a higher evaluation score against quality, patient access and value criteria.

A key benefit is that it will significantly improve patient access across the Thames Valley area, through the addition of two new scanning locations to be based in NHS hospitals in Swindon and Milton Keynes. In addition, all parties, including Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, are committed to ensuring that PET-CT services are also retained on the Churchill site, as part of a wider network of provision and partnership arrangement between both the Trust and InHealth.

A full briefing will be considered by Oxfordshire's joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), setting out the proposals and next steps.

Yours sincerely



**John Stewart**  
National Director of Specialised Commissioning