



Dr Bruno Holthof  
Chief Executive  
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
The John Radcliffe  
Headley Way  
Oxford OX3 9DU

2 September 2021

Dear Bruno,

I read with interest the Care Quality Commission's report into maternity services across the Trust following their inspection earlier this year. There are clearly some key learning points and improvements to be made, particularly around the safe storage of medicines and the environment of some aspects of the delivery facilities. I have no doubt that the Trust will be looking at how to remedy these at the earliest convenience.

You will be aware from our previous conversations that the general culture of the Department has been a longstanding concern of mine. It is an issue that has been flagged with me by constituents over the past few years, even before the Horton's maternity service was downgraded. The Care Quality Commission's report is helpful in so far as it demonstrates that work still needs to be done to ensure staff feel willing and able to voice concerns in an environment free from blame or consequence. I would be interested to hear what action the Trust will be taking in this regard.

It will come as no surprise to you that I was also extremely anxious to read the Care Quality Commission's observations about transfer times from community settings. The safety of mothers and their babies has always been my top priority. When the Horton's maternity unit was downgraded, we were fortunate to have a static ambulance situated by the unit to ensure that any emergency transfers could take place as quickly as possible. It is not clear to me what the current arrangements are and what information expectant mothers should be receiving in discussions with their midwife. What is quite clear is that they are not getting all the information necessary to make informed decisions about where they choose to give birth. This is a point I suspect it would be worth us discussing in greater detail at some point in the weeks ahead.

I am extremely conscious that we have come a long way in recent months and now find ourselves much more aligned in our shared vision for the Horton. I am keen to do what I can to work together to see the improvements outlined by the CQC made as soon as possible so that we can all move forwards to make our future vision for the Horton a reality.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Prentis".

**Victoria Prentis MP**

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