



Department  
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From Edward Argar MP  
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Dear *Victoria*.

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 October to Sajid Javid about Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's expression of interest (EOI) in the Government's selection process for the next eight new hospitals. I apologise for the delay in replying, which has been caused by an unprecedented volume of correspondence throughout the pandemic.

I read the correspondence with care and recognise your commitment to this issue. We fully recognise the need to invest in improving health infrastructure across the country, including where NHS trusts have identified significant issues. We have committed to build 40 new hospitals by 2030, backed by an initial £3.7 billion. Together with eight existing schemes, this will mean 48 new hospitals by the end of the decade. This is the biggest hospital building programme in a generation.

Departmental officials have confirmed receipt of the EOI, and I would like to thank the team at the Trust for its considered efforts in sending through the submission. It is worth noting that this is the first of a two-stage selection process, which will be followed by a more detailed process for long-listed schemes later in the year.

This first stage will involve consideration of the EOIs, alongside analysis of existing official datasets signed off by trust executives, and review and challenge from regional NHS leaders to provide expertise on local system priorities. A national panel will consider all the evidence and analysis and will provide advice to ministers on a long list for consideration.

We are committed to a balanced and robust selection process that supports our ambitions to Build Back Better. As I am sure you will appreciate, the analysis will take some time and, while this is ongoing, we are unable to comment on individual submissions. Long-listed schemes will be invited to enter the subsequent, more detailed selection phase, likely to be launched by early next year. We aim to make a final decision next spring.

I would like to highlight that, while this stage of the process is focused on selecting the next eight new hospitals for the national programme, the process will also inform ongoing investment, subject to future funding settlements.

I hope this reply is helpful.

EDWARD ARGAR MP