

The Rt Hon Sir MIKE PENNING MP

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The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

18 February 2019

Dear

The future of acute hospital services in West Hertfordshire

As you know, for many years I have been very concerned, along with my community, about the quality and availability of acute hospital services in West Hertfordshire. So it will come as no surprise to you, I hope, that I express my concerns about the proposals emanating from the West Hertfordshire NHS Hospitals Trust and my local Clinical Commissioning Group. I have to say I have come to the conclusion that there is now not just a lack of management skills from both organisations but also now obvious maladministration.

My community have nothing but admiration for the front line staff who are delivering care with compassion and professionalism every day. However, the lack of confidence that we now have in the ability of the management teams to deliver the care that we need, brings me to the conclusion that I frankly have no confidence in their ability to deliver a tangible, safe and cohesive plan for the future of acute hospital services in my constituency. In particular, their refusal to contemplate a new-build on a greenfield site as one of the options as clearly the SOC requires.

I would ask if you could look in detail at the extensive and articulate arguments that are put forward in the enclosed documents from the New Hospital Campaign, which I am a member of, along with letters from Robert Scott FCIQB, Professional Adviser to the New Hospital Campaign and Professor Rob Glatter.

I look forward to your earliest comments with regards to our concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mike Penning

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