



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

24 February 2020

Dear Matt,

We hope you are well.

We are contacting you regarding the public consultation into the location of the new specialist emergency care hospital, which could be located at Epsom, St Helier or Sutton. As you are aware, the consultation will close on 1 April 2020 and we wanted to get in touch with you to outline our thoughts, as Members of Parliament who represent constituents in the Epsom, St Helier and Sutton catchment area.

Firstly, we strongly welcome the Government's commitment of £500 million to build a new hospital and improve existing ones, and we appreciate your willingness to work with us to improve healthcare for our constituents.

Change is needed for the Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust. There is an underlying financial deficit of £37m and the hospital buildings are not fit for purpose, built before the NHS was created and unsuitable for modern healthcare needs.

To ensure standards are being met for major acute services and to improve the financial position of the local NHS, a new hospital emergency care hospital is needed. The new facility will bring together core, major services on a single site.

In their consultation document for the new hospital, the CCGs for Surrey Downs, Sutton and Merton have outlined the criteria for the location of the new facility and explore three options: Epsom, St Helier and Sutton. All three options will improve healthcare in our areas. However, the three CCGs ultimately recommend the Sutton site as the preferred option.

We agree that the proposed Sutton location will best fulfil the criteria for the new specialist emergency care hospital, as set out below:

Long-term clinical sustainability

With the new hospital located in Sutton, there will be three urgent treatment centres to serve the catchment area, compared to just two urgent treatment centres if the location is selected at St Helier or Epsom. Although improved quality of care would result from all three options, the ability to access urgent treatment centres across three locations instead of two would help increase access to urgent healthcare across the catchment area. It would also ease pressure from St Helier and Epsom urgent treatment centres if a third option was available for patients to visit.



Furthermore, the location of the proposed Sutton site is with the Royal Marsden hospital – a world-leading cancer centre. This would improve care for local cancer patients.

Access and travel

Basing the new hospital site in Sutton would have the least overall impact on travel for older people and people from deprived communities. 58.7% of people in the catchment area will be able to access the Sutton site within 30 minutes, compared to 53% for St Helier and 49.1% for Epsom. The Sutton site will benefit from being located within minutes walking distance from Belmont railway station.

Deliverability

The Sutton site is the easiest to develop because it is a new build property. A new facility at the St Helier and Epsom sites would impact current patients in these hospitals. Between 80 – 200 beds would need to be removed from St Helier and Epsom during the construction phase if they were selected for the new hospital. As a result, the Sutton site could take just four years to build, compared to six years for Epsom and seven years for St Helier.

Best value for local taxpayers

Although the Sutton site would cost the most to build out of the three options, it would retain the most patients in the catchment area and, thus, be the best value option for local taxpayers. Sutton would also put the Epsom and St Helier Trust in a greater surplus for 2025/26 at £12.7 million compared with £5.2 million for St Helier and £6.5 million for Epsom.

Whilst we appreciate that there are benefits to building the new hospital at any of the three sites, quality patient outcomes for the greatest number of patients should be the main consideration. It is clear to us and the three catchment area CCGs that the Sutton site will fulfil the criteria for a new hospital to deliver the best patient outcomes.

With less than six weeks until the consultation closes, we ask that you consider the points raised in this letter and support the selection of Sutton for the site of the new specialist emergency care hospital.

Once again, thank you for securing the funding for this project and we look forward to working with you further to improve healthcare across our constituencies.

Many thanks,

Elliot Colburn
Member of Parliament for Carshalton & Wallington

Paul Scully
Member of Parliament for Sutton & Cheam

Crispin Blunt
Member of Parliament for Reigate

Stephen Hammond
Member of Parliament for Wimbledon