

POC1_568638

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

David Evennett MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear David,

24 NOV 2010

Removal of acute services from Queen Mary's Sidcup (QMS)

I am responding to your letter and petition presented by you both and the editor of the Bexley News Shopper, to No 10 on 28 October 2010, in which you raise concerns about acute services at Queen Mary's Sidcup (QMS).

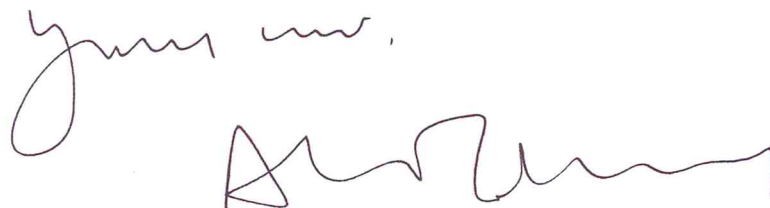
I would like to thank you for raising this issue with me again when we met at Richmond House on 9 November 2010.

As I acknowledged in my response to James Brokenshire of 19 October 2010, I fully recognise your concerns and those expressed by local patients and I look forward to visiting the trust myself in the near future.

The proposals to temporarily close both A&E and maternity units at QMS have been made on the grounds of clinical and patient safety, supported by an independent review. I support this course of action, as I am clear the trust has a duty to ensure the safety of its patients.

In terms of the work that has taken place separately to review the A Picture of Health (APoH) proposals against the four tests for reconfiguration, which I set out in May 2010, NHS London is now considering this report, and other evidence provided, in order to seek assurance that it is a true reflection of local GP and wider stakeholder opinion.

While these temporary closures take place, let me make it clear that this will in no way impact on NHS London's assessment of those local reconfiguration plans against our four tests, which are of course a benefit to all involved in the local process for change.



ANDREW LANSLEY CBE