



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr. John Turner
Chief Executive
NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Bridge House
The Point
Lions Way
Sleaford
NG34 8GG

27 October 2020


Dear Mr. Turner,

Thank you for your recent updates and engagement regarding St Mary's Surgery in Stamford. It is on this matter that we would like to write to you today on behalf of many of our constituents and residents who have expressed both public and private concerns about the ongoing situation.

As you know, since the NHS was founded, GP services have consistently been a private service contracted by the NHS. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were set up with the full responsibility of procuring necessary GP services in England. Therefore, as the Chief Executive of the NHS Lincolnshire CCG with responsibility for providing comprehensive GP services in Stamford we wanted to write to you formally, in addition to the recent virtual exchanges, in order to set out some of the concerns and questions from our residents.

Firstly, we are aware that the immediate concern has been caused as a result of a decision by Lakeside Healthcare to terminate their lease and consolidate all GP services for Stamford out of their remaining practice, the Sheepmarket Surgery. Our understanding after engaging with both Lakeside and the freeholders is that the reasons behind the break clause being executed are disputed by both sides. As a result, we strongly urge you to continue to bring the two sides together to find an immediate resolution, as this not only relates to the patients of the St Mary's Surgery but also for the people of Stamford and the surrounding villages.

Secondly, our constituents and residents question how c.30,000 patients can be adequately served by just one GP practice and we would like your assurance that under your leadership



of the CCG, patients will be well served and have access to the services they deserve in Stamford should St Mary's Surgery close now or in the future.

Thirdly, it is right that the patients be heard and consulted ahead of any major changes to healthcare services in the town. What assurances can you provide our constituents and residents that patients have the opportunity to express their concerns about, for example, parking and capacity at the Sheepmarket Surgery?

Fourthly, a number of our residents have asked why there are not more providers of GP services in Stamford. Can you offer an explanation to them as to what is preventing a competitive environment and broader options for GP services?

Stamford is a growing town and has a large proportion of elderly residents. With increasing demands on our NHS at this time of national crisis, people are understandably concerned and while we have confidence that you will provide answers to their questions, we do ask that you act expeditiously to resolve their concerns.

While we hope that the issues with St Mary's Surgery will be resolved soon, as that would address the immediate issue of concern, it is also important however, that patients feel that there is a long term strategy in place to ensure that all residents have access to an efficient and comprehensive local primary care provision. As such, we would like to request now that we start planning to bring key stakeholders together to discuss such a strategy.

Thank you again for your openness and engagement so far, please accept this series of concerns in good faith. We look forward to your response.

Your sincerely,

Gareth Davies MP
Grantham and Stamford

Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Leader, Lincolnshire County Council

Alicia Kearns MP
Rutland and Melton

Tom Pursglove MP
Corby

Cllr Kelham Cooke
Leader, South Kesteven District Council