



## VICTORIA ATKINS

Member of Parliament for Louth and Horncastle

Dr Stephen Baird  
Clinical Chair  
Corporate Office  
NHS Lincolnshire East CCG  
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16 OCT 2018

Dear Dr. Baird,

Please pass on my thanks to representatives from Lincolnshire East Clinical Commissioning Group (LECCG) for taking the time to meet me privately in the summer and to attend the public meeting I arranged on Friday 5 October. I am writing to you to seek answers on the concerns that my constituents have raised about the review of provision of inpatient services on at County Hospital Louth.

I am disappointed by the lack of time, formality and thoroughness of the consultation process with local residents. Many of their concerns about the proposed changes at the hospital go far beyond the parameters of the online survey. I am pleased that, following my intervention, the engagement event on 16 October has been moved from Skegness to Mablethorpe to reflect the area that the hospital serves.

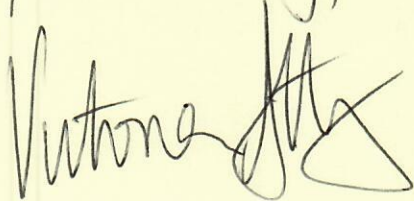
I would be grateful if you could answer each of the questions below:

- 1) An assurance was made following the health and safety inspection on 22 June 2017 that the two wards would 'return to their original capacity of 50 beds'. I communicated this pledge to my constituents in good faith. Why has this commitment been reneged upon and how can my constituents trust you to keep to your word now?
- 2) During the public meeting I chaired, representatives from LECCG said that the health and safety assessment of the wards suggested a limit of 40 beds could safely be accommodated. Why is the option of 40 beds not part of the review?
- 3) Constituents are concerned that the 'home first' approach will rush the discharge of patients before safe care is ready at home, resulting in more A&E visits and re-admission to hospitals further away. What steps will be taken to improve the provision of home-based care to provide an improved service as you describe?
- 4) Staff members at Louth Hospital have raised with me that the changes to the proposals have affected the morale of existing staff and the ability to recruit staff to a hospital with reducing numbers of beds. What specific efforts have you made to engage with staff and address their concerns?

- 5) East Lindsey's Local Plan mandates minimum house building for Louth of 1,204 homes, and an overall district-wide housing requirement of 7,819 homes for the period 2017-2031. What assessment has been made of the growing population and expanding local health services to meet their needs in the future?
- 6) The Sustainability and Transformation Partnership outlines the option of re-provision of community facilities at Louth, including the possibility of a new hospital in Louth. What further details and timescale can you provide for consideration of this option?

Louth Hospital is important to us all and I want to see it remain a thriving specialist general hospital for the future. As the engagement events have shown, local residents feel very strongly about their hospital. It is crucial that LECCG provides clarification on the points above to bring the community with you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,  


Victoria Atkins MP  
Member of Parliament for Louth & Horncastle