



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Matthew Kershaw
Chief Executive, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust
Kent and Canterbury Hospital
Ethelbert Road
Canterbury
Kent CT1 3NG

2 May 2017

Dear Matthew,

Thank you for our meeting on Friday 28 April. Given the concern about the future of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital, we are writing to ask you to respond on the record on the following points:

Firstly, as you know, we believe that the forthcoming consultation should propose an acute hospital at Canterbury. This should be included in at least one of the options, otherwise you will not be giving residents a genuine choice.

Secondly, Kent would benefit enormously from a medical school to attract the brightest and best doctors, nurses and other health professionals here. While you advised that a medical school could be successful irrespective of hospital locations, having a major acute hospital close to the main medical school site – which is proposed to be in Canterbury – would strengthen the bid. This should be an important factor in the evaluation of options.

Thirdly, the evaluation criteria as described at the previous CHEK meeting included the requirement for any option to be deliverable in 5 years. We are concerned that this may exclude options which would prove better for our constituents in the longer term. Major decisions about the location of services should look at least 10 to 15 years ahead.

Finally, there is a great deal of uncertainty about what operational changes are taking place in the short term. Please could you set out for us exactly which services will be changing, the date when those changes will be taking place, and the target date for bringing them back to Canterbury?

This would be very helpful to address our constituents' concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament for
Faversham and Mid Kent

Sir Julian Brazier TD MP
Member of Parliament for
Canterbury and Whitstable