



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dame Fiona Caldicott
Chairman
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
The John Radcliffe
Headley Way
Headington
Oxford OX3 9DU

30 August 2016

Dear Dame Fiona,

Ahead of the Trust Board's extraordinary meeting tomorrow, we feel it is necessary to write to set out our serious concerns about the possible suspension of obstetric services at the Horton General Hospital.

We agree with the Trust that patient safety is paramount. However, we feel that downgrading the unit to a midwife-only service, where emergency cases will have to endure at least a 45-minute transfer to the closest consultant-led unit, will put the lives of mothers and their babies at grave risk.

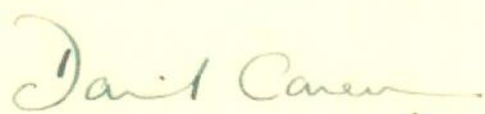
Moreover, we also have considerable concerns about the way in which the Trust has communicated their plans to us and the public. Since the announcement on 22 July, the Trust has not been forthcoming with information about their plans. It has been left to us to arrange meetings and public events to ensure everyone understands the ramifications of any decision that is made. Reassurances have been sought about 24/7 ambulance provision, transfer times and transportation arrangements for family members. Meanwhile, risk assessments have been promised but not delivered. It is deeply regrettable that we have seen absolutely no evidence to assuage our concerns.

On this basis, we believe it would be grossly unfair for the Board to make a decision to downgrade the service at the Horton when they meet on Wednesday, even on a temporary basis. Instead, we request that locum support or temporary staffing cover (consultant if necessary) is arranged while a fair and open consultation is conducted, and the evidence is collated and disseminated.

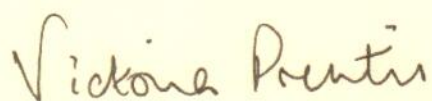
We also seek assurances that any decision taken on obstetric provision at the Horton will neither impact nor jeopardise the future of any further acute services at the hospital.

Together, we will continue to fight to secure the future of the Horton General Hospital for our constituents. We would be grateful if you could share this letter as part of the bundle of papers you intend to circulate to other Board members in advance of the meeting.

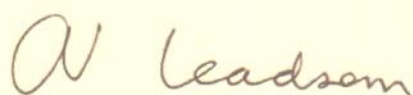
Yours sincerely,



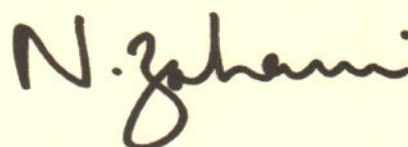
Rt Hon David Cameron MP



Victoria Prentis MP



Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP



Nadhim Zahawi MP

Cc: Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State, Department of Health