



Department
of Health

From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health

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14 MAR 2017

Dear Colleagues,

RECONFIGURATION -: Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's decision not to reprocure services at Deer Park Medical Centre, Witney. Formal referral under Regulation 23(9) of the Local Authority (Public Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013

In response to the letter from the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 8th February 2017 referring the proposal to not reprocure services at Deer Park Medical Centre, I am today writing to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) asking them to undertake an initial assessment of the referral.

The option to look again at what services should be provided at or in the immediate vicinity of Deer Park Medical Centre is one to be considered by the IRP. I am, however, satisfied that, based on the evidence presented to me, the option to continue the existing service expired some months ago, and that it is not now a safe or practical option. I have decided not to make any directions at this time, having regard in particular to the potential risk to patient safety, to unpick the current arrangements for handling the inevitable consequences of the ending of the existing contract. I would also like you to consider (bearing in mind also the requirements of safety and efficiency) taking no further actions, pending the outcome of the IRP review, that would preclude a future resumption (or re-commissioning) of services at/on/near the existing site.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate that patient safety is my first and foremost priority and the priority of the NHS. It is therefore vital that all Deer Park Medical Centre patients should register with another surgery nearby, in line with the arrangements you have made, to ensure that, whatever the outcome of the IRP review, they have continued access to the services they need.

I have asked the Panel to report to me no later than Tuesday 11th April 2017.

I am copying this letter to The Lord Ribeiro, Chair of the IRP.

I have written in similar terms to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Yours sincerely
Jeremy

JEREMY HUNT