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Dear Councillor Gruen,

Thank you for contacting NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to request further information regarding our decision to close the blood donation centre at our Leeds Bridle Path site.

We first wrote to Councillor Debra Coupar in May 2016 to make the council aware that we were looking at the long term options for our centres in Leeds and Sheffield.

We followed this with a further letter on 6 September 2016 advising that in addition to reviewing our estate the recent decision by the Department of Health Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) to collect fewer platelets (a component of blood) by apheresis procedure and the ongoing decline in hospital demand for blood meant that we had taken the decision to propose the closure of the Leeds Bridle Path Blood Donor Centre.

In late September we entered into a period of collective consultation with staff side representatives for those impacted by the proposed change which ran until the end of October. Having fully considered several counter proposals put forward by staff side the decision to go ahead with the closure of the Bridle Path Donor Centre was taken on 4 November 2016. This was then followed by a period of individual consultation with affected staff, as I'm sure you can appreciate it was not appropriate to confirm the decision externally until we had completed this process. However, we apologise that the Council heard of the decision to close the centre before we had sent you an official update.

There are currently two blood donor centres in the city of Leeds that collect both platelets and whole blood. One is located at the NHSBT centre at Bridle Path, while the other donor centre is located in the city centre of Leeds at a leased property (The Headrow). In light of the fact we have two donor centres in such close proximity, it made sense that we reviewed our donor centre provision in the area.

NHSBT is a publicly funded organisation, therefore we have a responsibility to deliver our services as efficiently and as effectively as possible. When the proposal to close Leeds Bridle Path donor centre was formulated, all options to consider what donor centre presence in Leeds was needed were considered. The conclusion reached was that the Leeds Headrow site is best placed to serve the city of Leeds. This is primarily because this site already has a substantially bigger whole blood donor base than Leeds Bridle Path and also has more donor potential due to the higher footfall around the city centre. The Headrow site is also better placed to attract more donors from ethnic minority backgrounds.

It is important to stress that the closure of the Leeds Bridle Path Donor Centre will not affect NHSBT's ability to collect and supply enough blood and blood products to meet the demand of hospitals in Leeds or surrounding areas. In addition there will still be donation centres in Leeds city centre and

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Bradford as well as mobile community sessions, so every donor that wants to give blood will still be able to do so. We very much hope most people will; we appreciate that each and every one of them saves and improves lives every time they come to donate.

As a national organisation, I wish to assure you that we very much value the opinions of local authorities, and the residents they represent. We are committed to ensuring that we are as open as possible when communicating changes to our blood collection programme.

Therefore, as well as communicating any changes to our loyal donors, as an Arms Length Body (ALB) accountable directly to the Department of Health, we also ensure we keep our DH Sponsors updated on our planned changes.

I hope that the information provided here has been helpful in addressing the concerns raised.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Lawley
Head of Corporate Communications