

Councillor Peter Gruen
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By email

06 June 2017

Dear Councillor Gruen,

Re: Closure of the Leeds Bridle Path Donor Centre in Seacroft

I respond to your letter of 3 May, regarding feedback from the Leeds Health Scrutiny Board about NHSBT's decision to close the blood donation centre at our Leeds Bridle Path site.

I have considered carefully the points you have made. NHSBT's responsibility is to collect enough blood nationally to care for patients across England. We do not provide a local health service.

In 2016/17 NHSBT collected just over 1.6 million donations from around 900,000 donors across England. Once collected each donation is processed and tested before being issued to hospitals throughout England in line with patient need. The amount of blood hospitals need is lower than it was due to improvements in clinical practice. We need to react to this by proposing some changes to collections. As a publicly funded organisation, we have a duty to collect blood as efficiently and effectively as possible. Every saving we make is money that is released back to hospitals to invest in frontline patient care.

I would again like 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 anywhere else in England. In addition, every donor that wants to give blood will still have the opportunity to do so.

Point 16 of the Scrutiny Board statement you have sent us states that *"We believe that NHSBT is "a responsible person", as defined by 'The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013', and is therefore subject to the same requirements and has the same responsibilities as any other body within that definition."*

The 2013 Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) regulations says "a responsible person means a relevant NHS body or a health service provider" and clarifies that this definition is based on section 244(3) of the NHS Act 2006 as amended by the section 190(1) and (4) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

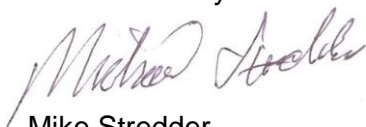
The definitions in both Acts also have clauses that clearly state that "relevant NHS body" in relation to overview and scrutiny committees means an NHS body, **other than a Special Health Authority**, which is prescribed for those purposes in relation to the authority.

NHSBT is a Special Health Authority. We remain committed to ensuring that we are as open as possible when communicating changes to our blood collection programme. We are not bound, however, to the same duties and responsibilities in relation to engagement and consultation with local Health Scrutiny Committees that local health providers are by legislation.

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

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

Yours sincerely



Mike Stredder
Director of Blood Donation