

Councillor John Illingworth

Chair, Scrutiny Board
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Sir Neil McKay (Chair, JCPCT)
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Your ref	
Our ref	LM/SMC
Date	9 July 2012

Dear Sir Neil,

Re: Review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services in England

Thank you for your letter, dated 6 July 2012, confirming your attendance at the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Joint HOSC) meeting on 24 July 2012. I look forward to welcoming you on the 24th and will provide more details of the arrangements for that meeting in the near future. I also look forward to receiving your substantive response to my previous letters, dated 3 July 2012 and 5 July 2012, and the issues raised in the near future.

However, please be aware that I have been studying the Decision Making Business Case and reading some of the numerous supporting documents very recently published on the Safe and Sustainable website. Although it is relatively easy to follow the generalities of the arguments presented to and accepted by JCPCT, I feel that the published documents do not provide sufficient detail about the various calculations to permit the forensic examination that some members of the public and the JHOSC may require. The Business Case and the Health Impact Assessment also contain numerous maps, which appear to have been prepared using *ArcGIS* or similar electronic mapping software.

As such, I would like to know more precisely how the relevant scoring and mapping calculations have been performed and would be greatly obliged if the following additional information could be urgently provided:

- 1) Worked through calculations that show exactly how the scores for all twelve options were calculated, and identify every piece of data that contributed to the overall results. In practice we assume that these scores were calculated using Excel spreadsheets or similar software. Functional, annotated copies of the relevant spreadsheets and associated macros would meet our requirements.
- 2) The GIS input documents for the maps, including any shapefiles and "joined" information from associated spreadsheets, sufficient to allow us to reproduce these figures on our own computer equipment in Leeds.

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- 3) Electronic copies of all the previous iterations of the Business Case and the Health Impact Assessment.
- 4) Reworked patient/ population flow data, which details how the findings in the PwC report have been used to affect the final predicted patient flow data and ultimately the sustainability of proposed networks.

There is a high degree of urgency to these requests, because the Joint HOSC adheres to the requirements of the Local Government Acts, and aims to publish its agendas and reports 5 clear working days before the relevant meetings. This means that any reports for our meeting on 24 July 2012 must be published on 16 July 2012. In practice this means that all relevant papers must have been written, reviewed and in their final form by 13 July 2012, i.e. this Friday. This regrettable situation has arisen entirely due to the delays in publishing the JCPCT papers for the meeting held on 4 July 2012. If all the JCPCT papers had been available at the proper time (i.e. 26 June 2012) the present difficulties would, in all likelihood, have been avoided. Please be aware that I am also taking some time to review and consider documentation previously available – such as the original public consultation document; the Joint HOSC's report from October 2011; the response to the Joint HOSC's referral from the Secretary of State for Health (and the associated report from the IRP), and various correspondence to/from the previous Chair. While this is an ongoing process, I have identified the following areas where I believe further and more detailed information is required:

- 1) **Sir Ian Kennedy's panel scoring** – the detailed scoring information and assessment forms for each surgical centre, used and produced by Sir Ian Kennedy's panel following site visits in May/ June 2010. I need not remind you that this information has been requested by the Joint HOSC on several occasions and, while access has previously been denied on the basis of the JCPCT not wanting access to such information ahead of its decision, assurance has been given that such details would be made available after the JCPCT's decision.
- 2) **Evaluation criteria and associated weightings applied** – I would like more details of the methodology used – both in terms of when and where the methodology was agreed and how the methodology was applied across each of the identified stakeholder groups (i.e. the Steering Group, SCGs, Clinicians and Parents). I am particularly interested to know how and when the methodology was applied, the numbers involved and areas represented across each stakeholder group.
- 3) **Nationally Commissioned Services** – I would like to see and try to understand the rationale for retaining 2 centres to provide transplant services, along with 3-year activity levels for each current centre (GOSH and Newcastle) that details the postcode details of those treated. I would also like confirmation (and if relevant similar activity details) of any children's heart transplant activity undertaken in any other centre.

As you will undoubtedly appreciate, all members of the Joint HOSC will need sufficient time to analyse the data identified above to make best use of the time available at the meeting on 24 July 2012.

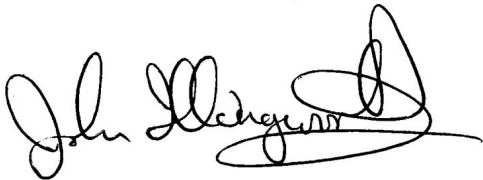
As such, and notwithstanding members of the Joint HOSC identifying any further information requirements at the meeting on the 24th, I would be obliged if you could impress on your staff, sub-contractors, consultants and any other relevant parties that electronic delivery of the information identified above needs to start today and commencing delivery on Tuesday or Wednesday this week is unlikely to meet our requirements.

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I should be grateful if a member of your staff could call me on 07946 301132 to discuss how this tight deadline might be achieved.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Illingworth', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor John Illingworth
Chair, Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), Yorkshire and the Humber

cc All Members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)
Cllr. Lisa Mulherin, Leeds City Council
Jeremy Glyde, Safe and Sustainable Programme Director (NHS Specialised Services)
Andy Buck, Chief Executive (NHS South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw)
Cathy Edwards, Director of Specialised Commissioning, North of England Specialised Commissioning Group (Yorkshire and the Humber Office)
Ms Maggie Boyle, Chief Executive (Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust)