



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*Caroline Dinenage
Minister of State for Care*

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Dr Johnson
South Devon and Torbay CCG
Pomona House,
Oak View Close,
Torquay TQ2 7FF

20th December 2018

Dear Dr Johnson,

I recently met Dr Sarah Wollaston MP. She raised concerns about a potential mismatch in the data being used by the CCG when determining bed-based care provision in Dartmouth and actual local need.

I understand that the CCG is introducing a new integrated model of care, creating health and wellbeing centres, enhanced community health services and consolidating community hospitals and minor injury units to one in each CCG. This has resulted in the closure of hospital beds including those at Dartmouth Hospital. Whilst I want to encourage more care, where safe to do so, to be delivered close to home, I also recognise that bed-based care can be necessary for some patients such as those who are safe to leave hospital but are not yet ready to return home, or those that require palliative care.

I am also conscious that the intention to introduce a new integrated model of care across Devon, could be affected by the public dissatisfaction and loss of trust. At our meeting, Dr Wollaston told me that this has happened in Dartmouth.

I am therefore writing to you to ask you to share the reasoning behind your decisions with me, Dr Wollaston and (if possible, given commercial and other confidentiality constraints) with Dartmouth Caring. Dr Wollaston would like to see your formal assessment of bed-based need in Dartmouth, and in particular

how you took into account any bed-based care being delivered in acute settings which would be better delivered in an intermediate care setting, and any patients being sent out of the area for intermediate bed-based care.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Dinénage', written in a cursive style.

CAROLINE DINENAGE MP, MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE

CC: Dr Sarah Wollaston

Liz Davenport (CEO) and Sir Richard Ibbotson (Chair), Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust