



Essex County Council

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TO:

Rob Elek
Programme Director – Transformational
Director of Strategy and Business Development
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
162 City Road
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Date: 13 March 2014

Your Reference:

Our Reference: **AC**

Dear Rob

Views of Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) on Proposed Move of Hospital Location

As the current Chairman of the Outer North East London JHOSC, I am writing to confirm the overall views of the Committee on the above proposals. A group of JHOSC Members recently visited the existing City Road site and, having discussed the matter at the Committee's meeting on 13 March 2014, the Committee is of the view that these proposals do not require formal consultation under section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006. The Committee therefore feels that the changes should proceed, subject to the comments shown below.

A group of JHOSC members and officers recently visited the existing City Road site and I would like to record my thanks to Moorfields officers for facilitating this. The visit showed clearly how cramped the existing building now is and that this is a hindrance, if not to good clinical care, then certainly to the patient experience received. The Committee therefore is in support of your plans to move the hospital to more fit for purpose premises.

The Committee has noted the Trust's assurances that no services will change as a result of the proposals which are solely for a move of location and is therefore of the view that the proposals The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is exercising its powers as conferred under the NHS Act 2006, section 245 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012). This is distinct from and separate to those powers exercised by the Executive of the constituent Councils.

do not constitute a service variation of the type that would require formal consultation of the kind mentioned in the legislation referred to above. Clearly, the Committee would plan to scrutinise the situation in the coming years in order to establish that no services are reduced or impacted as a result of the move of location.

The Joint Committee feels it is essential that a robust programme of engagement continues with both itself and other all other stakeholders including the relevant Local Healthwatch organisations as the plans are developed and the move of location takes place. Specifically, the Committee would like Moorfields officers to appear before it on at least an annual basis in order to update plans for the move of hospital site. It is also recommended that Moorfields pass any written updates or publications concerning the move to the Clerk to the Committee, as they are published, in order that these can be distributed to Committee Members without delay.

In conclusion, the Committee understands the reasons why Moorfields wishes to move to a new site and supports the Trust's plans to do so. The Committee looks forward to engagement on the plans continuing over the coming years and to further scrutinising the proposals as they are developed in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Mrs Vanessa Cole
Chairman, Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This letter has been copied to:

All Members and Supporting Officers, Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Luke Byron-Davies, Clerk, Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Rob Mack, Clerk, North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee