

BY EMAIL AND POST



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health

Thursday, 16th March 2017
Your ref: POC_1073014
My ref: RAC/eq/D

Dear Minister,

Re: Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's decision not to reprocur services at Deer Park Medical Centre, Witney.

Thank you for your letter of 14th March to Cllr Constance, which I have seen today. Further to our recent meeting and all previous correspondence, I am grateful to you for your decision to write to the IRP, requesting an initial assessment of the referral.

However, I urge you to reconsider:

- your decision only to ask the CCG to *consider* taking no further action that would preclude the re-opening of the practice. There is every reason to consider that they will not heed this call, given the lack of consultation and determination to close the practice thus far. It is essential that the CCG are prevented from dispersing the patient list *immediately*, if the IRP process is to be - and be seen to be - anything other than an empty show;
- pressing the IRP for a decision at the earliest possible moment? A report to you by 11th April 2017 will be too late: the practice will have closed, and any decision the IRP may make would be hypothetical.

The CCG are determined to close this essential local service by 24th March - i.e. a week tomorrow. It is essential, if the people of Witney are to be properly served, and have their concerns properly considered, that the IRP considers this matter in the next few days.

I note your view that it is vital that all Deer Park Medical Centre patients re-register with another surgery nearby in the interests of patient safety. Of course, this is also my chief concern; whilst I would agree that any patients with concerns over continuity of service ought to re-register for safety's sake, I do feel that to urge *all* patients to do so is simply to assist the CCG in presenting the IRP, you, me - and most importantly, the people of Witney - with a *fait accompli*.

Please would you confirm to me as soon as possible that you have considered these points, and your view?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert".

Robert Courts MP

cc: Lord Ribeiro, Chair of the IRP
Cllr Yvonne Constance, Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Deer Park Patients Participation Group