



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
Your ref: POC\_1073014  
My ref: RAC/eq/D

Dear Minister,

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

Further to my previous letter to you dated Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017, I am writing to update you on developments regarding this matter.

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, in their closure procedure for Deer Park Medical Centre in Witney, have been advising patients of nine nearby practices which have open patient lists to which the 4500 registered patients could in theory transfer. The practices anticipated to take the weight of these transfers by the CCG are the Nuffield Health Centre, Windrush Medical Partnership and Cogges Surgery, who have stated that they would be able to take 1500, 750 and 1500 patients respectively.

However, I have been informed that patients are being turned away from these practices, causing great confusion and distress. It may be that this is because many patients are applying to these practices despite being outside of the catchment area. The catchment areas of each practice have not been communicated by the CCG at any point, and this lack of information is causing unnecessary distress, confusion and frustration for patients.

Furthermore, there are currently 2500 patients left on the patient list despite the practice due for closure on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017. This includes many families with young children. I have been informed by many residents that they are not moving due to this confusion about patient lists, and because the formal decision is yet to be made by the IRP.

I of course understand that a decision takes time and I would not want to rush this very important process. However, I would urge you at the very least to ensure that interim measures are put in place to keep Deer Park Medical Centre open until 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 when the IRP is due to make a decision – and ideally for a month thereafter.

This would ensure that the IRP process has some meaning and, in the regrettable event of an adverse decision, patients have sufficient time to reregister to a neighbouring practice. I am sure you will agree with me that it is essential to ensure vulnerable patients are not left without a GP.



It is worth noting that the current interim measure is in place until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, despite the official closure of the practice on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017. This would mean that a further interim measure would only need to be in place for a short time; I am sure you will agree this is not unreasonable if it ensures a continuity of service between now and the IRP's decision.

I would appreciate if you would force the CCG to keep the practice open until 11<sup>th</sup> April, in the interest of patient safety. It is unacceptable for Deer Park Medical Centre to be closed early, leaving 2500 patients without access to a GP, and unacceptable for it to close while the IRP is still investigating.

Many thanks in advance and I look forward to a response.

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Courts". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive hand.

**Robert Courts MP**