



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

25 July 2024

Dear Wes,

I am writing further to concerns expressed to me about the progress of my local health care trust, BHRUT, in tackling cancer and the ongoing need to manage pressure on the A&E of Queen's Hospital.

As you will be aware as a North East London MP, the North East London ICB benefited from significant investment from the last Conservative Government, with the ICB receiving just under £4billion for this current financial year. Investment like this helped North East London to deliver the sixth highest growth in GP appointments across England.

At the acute Trust level, in recent years the Conservative government provided funding support to the Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge University Trust (BHRUT) for a range of projects:

- In 2020, a combined £7.1m to improve emergency department capacity at Queen's Hospital and, more local to you, King George's Hospital.
- In 2022, £14m to expand the surgical hub at King George's, providing two new operating theatres and other facilities. You described these facilities as groundbreaking when attending the opening in May
- In 2023, £1.1m to support a discharge hub and £3m to support a surgical assessment unit, both at Queen's Hospital

In September of this year, healthcare in Hornchurch and the surrounding will be transformed with the opening of the St. George's Health and Wellbeing Hub. I know that local health leaders are eagerly awaiting this facility and I believe that the level of integrated services to be delivered at St. George's could set a new benchmark.

Further to this progress, however, I draw your attention to the enclosed letter from Matthew Trainer, BHRUT Chief Executive, with whom I have been working methodically to address some of the challenges we have experienced post-pandemic with the area's growing population.



Matthew has advised that the present Emergency Department at Queen's Hospital is no longer fit for purpose as it now regularly sees more than double the 300 patients a day it was built to accommodate. As Matthew notes, the opening of the St. George's Health and Wellbeing Hub provides an opportunity for a reconfiguration of services and a rebuild of the A&E to provide a safer and more secure facility for patients and staff. BHRUT require £35m to fulfil the project and I would welcome your full support for it.

Matthew has also set out how BHRUT patients are encountering delays in obtaining PET scans and, consequently, cancer treatment, due to an absence of a PET scanner within BHRUT hospitals. BHRUT are requesting that NHS England review the location of scanners across the capital so that we have one locally. I would ask also for your support in addressing this request.

Finally, though our party affiliations differ, we have a shared interest in supporting investments into vital infrastructure used by our respective constituents in our part of the capital. I look forward to working with you constructively on behalf of North East London residents.

With best wishes,

Julia