



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon 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
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17 January 2025

Dear Wes,

Transforming A&E at Queen's Hospital, Havering

Soon after the general election, on 24 July 2024 I wrote to you about our local acute hospital trust's urgent need for funding to transform their A&E department. There has been rising demand for a facility which already operates beyond double its original capacity.

In your department's reply, the Minister of State for Health, Karin Smyth MP, set out in September that the department was currently reviewing capital spending in line with the Government's missions and as part of the internal spending review. She did not commit to any specific scheme before NHS funding is secured.

Since then, the new St. George's Health and Wellbeing Hub in Hornchurch, backed by the last government, has opened. The facility now serves as a model of integrated care, with a huge range of social and medical services accessible in a brand-new modern facility, easing pressure from Queen's Hospital. Crucially, the relocation of renal dialysis services from Queen's Hospital to the St. George's Hub means that it will be possible for Queen's to reconfigure services and significantly expand their A&E department.

Given that many of your own constituents will also use Queen's, you will appreciate the urgency of the situation. Originally designed in 2006 to care for a maximum of 325 people a day, the Trust now sees more than double that. December 2024 was their busiest month on record with 752 patients awaiting urgent and emergency care at Queen's on one day. This means staff have no alternative but to offer care in corridors leading to a poor experience for patients, families and staff. It also places additional staffing costs on the trust.

Now that the Government have published both the Autumn Budget and your mission statements, it is imperative that BHRUT, our local hospital trust, is granted the £35 million it requires to remodel the A&E department. You talked of rewarding Trusts which bring waiting lists down and I hope that the efforts to improve various metrics by the Trust over the last two years and the benefits which will flow from the St George's Hub, will see that recognition in the form of capital funding. In so doing, we will be able to improve emergency care in our corner of North-East

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London, and healthcare more generally, for local people for decades to come. I would welcome your advice on the Government's consideration of this scheme alongside an appointment, so that we may discuss ways in which we can deliver improvements for residents in both our constituencies.

With best wishes,

Julia Lopez

Member of Parliament for Hornchurch & Upminster