

Dear Doctor

I am writing to ask for a meeting with your practice regarding your role in the proposals for St Helier Hospital.

In May, all Merton's GP Practices met and agreed that these plans should go to the next stage. The Chief Officer of the CCG has said that "all members present agreed", including your practice.

I have been contacted by numerous constituents who are concerned that you agreed to this without discussing the implications with patients on your register, or with key local stakeholders like myself or Merton Councillors. You also did so without outlining what alternative treatments would be available to the local community. In particular, the meeting of GPs in May was told that the decision was "based on assumptions to improve care within the community", and BSBV later said there will be "improved out of hrs GP access". However, the medical director of BSBV has since said they are not drawing up plans for better community services.

In order to understand your decision, therefore, it is important to know what extra community services you will be offering at your practice, and what extended hours you are going to offer. It would also be helpful to learn when you intend to offer these expanded services and how they will be funded.

As you know, the decision you have made would lead to the closure of St Helier's A&E, Maternity Unit, Intensive Care Unit, Paediatric Unit, Critical Care Unit, Renal Unit and several other departments, as well as 390 hospital beds. I would therefore appreciate it if you could arrange for me to have a meeting with your practitioners to get a clear understanding of how your practice will take up the extra demand on community services caused by these closures.

I am available in the constituency throughout the week commencing 30 September, and would be grateful if you could give my office a call on 020 7219 4678 to arrange a suitable time to meet.

I hope that this is helpful, and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhain McDonagh MP