



The Rt Hon Sir MIKE PENNING MP

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Constituency Office

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Please quote our reference in all correspondence: MP75895 / Allen

Mr P Townsend
Chairman
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust Board
Watford General Hospital
Vicarage Road
Watford WD18 0HB

25th May 2022

Dear

I find it completely incomprehensible that the management of WHHT are pushing ahead with recommendations that are frankly so flawed, unbalanced and rushed and must be challenged, if necessary, in law.

As so many campaigners have already set out in their submissions and I completely concur with those residents that have so many concerns about the Trust's proposals. They and I feel passionately that these most important decisions must not be taken by the Board next week when the CEO, Deputy CEO and the Director of Acute Redevelopment are ALL about to leave their posts and new people will be coming in; especially after we were all promised a "Fresh Eyes" approach to the decisions in 2020 to remove all new site options, a subject I will return to later in this letter. The rush to place this in front of the Board a month before they depart, with a rushed lack of public engagement, leads me and others to the conclusion that the whole process is fundamentally unfit for purpose.

- Where are the Fresh Eyes as promised by the Trust management in March? The submissions still base their recommendations on the flawed 2020 decision that was very highly subjective and at such a high level was useless then as it is now. There was no credible site search.

- The Treasury Green book sets out the financial rules on funding projects but makes no reference to subjectivity, local buy-in from those most in need of a new hospital in West Hertfordshire and timings seem to be slipping by the day; delays which are the direct result of the Trust's management fixation with the existing Watford hospital site.

- I have seen many of the submissions from those that believe we should have a new hospital on a green field site that serves the whole community in our part of Hertfordshire, but I am also deeply concerned that many who want to have access to the Trust website are frankly disenfranchised or, to be honest, ignored and also that lack of response to my constituents who write to the Chairman of the Trust only to have their concerns kept away from his eyes.

With openness in mind, I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State, the CEO of the Trust and place it in the public arena, so please see this as an open letter.

Yours sincerely

Mike Penning

cc The Rt Hon Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Ms Christine Allen, CEO, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

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