

London Borough of Barnet
North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
London
N11 1NP

October 16th 2009

Dear Councillor Buckmaster,

I am writing to you in my role as Chairman of the Barnet Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. You will no doubt be familiar with me as the primary Barnet representative on the 'Stroke and Trauma' JHOSC which you chair.

At its meeting on September 14th 2009, Barnet's Health OSC considered the response from Healthcare for London on the results of its consultation. Whilst the committee affirmed its agreement with the principles of building a network of Hyper-Acute Stroke and Major Trauma units across the capital, it expressed several concerns over both the consultation, and the accuracy of the stated 'blue light' ambulance times contained therein.

The committee is concerned that effective consultation was not carried out by Healthcare for London. Awareness of the proposals and consultation was low, with it being necessary for the Leader of Barnet Council to send a letter to every resident in the borough to elicit a proper response.

Following this initiative, the response in Barnet was by far the highest of any London borough, comprising some 8,600 responses and 27% of the total for the capital as a whole. The committee is concerned that this was dismissed as "atypical" by IPSOS MORI and did not influence the final choice of locations for Hyper-Acute Stroke or Major Trauma Centres where it ought to have done.

Furthermore, the committee is also concerned that given the large distances involved, the 'blue light' travel times from the borough to the nearest Stroke and Major Trauma Centres are likely to be unrealistic, potentially falling outside the 30 and 45 minutes 'gold standard' journey times.

Therefore, the London Borough of Barnet Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee believes that the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to whom it would appear powers have been delegated to, should refer the decisions made by Healthcare for London regarding the Reconfiguration of

Stroke and Major Trauma Services to the Secretary of State on behalf of the London Borough of Barnet for the following reasons:

- 1. A lack of effective consultation by Healthcare for London.**
- 2. That it was necessary for the Leader of Barnet Council to send a letter to every resident in the borough to elicit an effective response to the Healthcare for London consultation further to paragraph 1(i) above.**
- 3. That not enough weight was given to the overwhelming response from Barnet residents when considering the results of the Healthcare for London consultation.**
- 4. Uncertainty over the estimated 'blue light' travel times to the proposed sites of the Stroke and Major Trauma Centres.**

I therefore request that discussion of the above be placed on the agenda for the JHOSC meeting scheduled for 28th October 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Sachin Rajput
Chairman of Barnet Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Barnet Representative on Pan-London JHOSC on Stroke/Major Trauma