



**Birmingham Heartlands Hospital**

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19<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Andrew

**Ref: Reconfiguration of surgery at Heartlands, Good Hope and Solihull Hospitals.**

I know you have been concerned about the potential impact on Good Hope Hospital of our developing proposals for surgery services across the Trust, and I thought it would be helpful if I write to set out the key elements that are emerging as our plan.

- Each of our three hospitals will continue to provide surgery – our proposed changes are aimed at consolidating different specialties on different hospital sites. This means that each hospital will continue to offer surgery as a key component of their service to local people. In fact each of our hospitals will have a much more sustainable surgical service and an opportunity to develop stronger and more comprehensive services than would otherwise be possible.
- The proposals only relate to the surgical component of a patient's care, by which we mean the operation itself. Whilst this could involve additional travel for some patients for their surgery, all of their pre- and postoperative outpatient and diagnostic care will continue at their local hospital.
- The Trust is committed to a full engagement and consultation process around these proposals so our local public have a chance to air their views and provide input ahead of any decision. At this stage it is anticipated that the Trust will lead this consultation process and we fully understand that you as our local MP will be fundamental to this process in speaking for Sutton and your constituents.

I hope this is helpful clarification. I understand the concern that surrounds any proposal for change, and I look forward to discussing how our plans can contribute to ensuring that Good Hope Hospital has a strong and sustainable future as a local acute hospital.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

**DR MARK NEWBOLD**  
Chief Executive