



**West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust and
East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust**

16th January 2007

Our ref: let GJ27
Dr A M C McMinn
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Dear Dr ~~McMinn~~ *Mary*

Re: The Local health Crisis

I refer to your letter enclosing the statement from Dacorum General Practitioners. I hope that many of the points raised in your letter were covered when I met with the DacCom just before Christmas.

I would however wish to reiterate what I said at that meeting and indeed what I said in a letter to you in response to the open letter from DacCom on the 18th of December. No firm decisions have been made as to the exact shape of services at Hemel Hempstead. The Primary Care Trust is very much committed to working with DacCom in order to shape the future of the hospital at Hemel Hempstead. I would certainly envisage this including a wide range of outpatient, diagnostic services as well as well as providing a centre for urgent care. This would be very much in line with the original Investing in Your Health proposals.

The Primary Care Trust has not removed specialities from the Choose and Book systems in order to stop GPs referring. In West Hertfordshire I am aware of particular problems around neurology which is due to capacity problems at the Trust and I am also aware of a particular problem around cardiology. Work is currently underway in order to reshape the service so that patients that book can have their tests and out patient appointment on the same day rather than been booked in for outpatient appointment and then having to return subsequently for a number of tests. If there is a particular issue that you wish to discuss regarding Choose and Book, Gareth Jones who is the Director responsible for Choose and Book, and Anne Griffiths the West Hertfordshire lead would be more than happy to attend one of your meetings.

Once again I would wish to reiterate the message that the Primary Care Trust is keen to work with DacCom and see it succeed.

Yours sincerely

Anne Walker.

Anne Walker
Chief Executive

Stuart Bloom,
Chair
West Hertfordshire PCT

Anne Walker
Chief Executive

Pam Handley
Chair
East and North Hertfordshire PCT