



**Northumbria Healthcare**

**NHS Foundation Trust**

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JM/MA

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Via email: [abetterhospitalforberwick@gmail.com](mailto:abetterhospitalforberwick@gmail.com)

Dear Sir

Thank you for your email dated the 8th October in which you shared your delight with the decision to progress with a stand-alone hospital site in Berwick. I would first like to take this opportunity to thank-you for sharing this information.

You will be aware that promises have been made relating to a new hospital over many years and, on behalf of the Board of Northumbria Healthcare, I can confirm that we are committed fully to a new hospital in Berwick. We are also committed to ensuring as many hospital services are accessible within this new hospital as possible, as long as it is safe and sustainable to do so.

We are now taking this time to understand the process to get us to the point of building a new hospital alongside, taken account of the comments made from the public regarding services with specific issues of people travelling for preoperative assessments and pacemaker battery checks as just two examples, looking to see what action we can do now to minimise travel as much as practicably possible.

It is important to note that the NHS is an organisation that cannot get involved in any type of political activity or lobby group, nor can it favour any political party. As you will appreciate we will always maintain this position.

Further engagement will be planned with regards to the development of the new hospital and we will confirm arrangements as soon as we can do so. This engagement will be accessible to all, which will of course be open to members of the Better Hospital for Berwick Group. We will also communicate actions taken to minimise patient travel for routine appointments as soon as we can.

At this juncture, I thought it would be helpful to share information relating to the previous consultation relating to a new model for emergency care in Northumberland. This consultation was led by the then North of Tyne Primary Care Trust and took place between 2008 and 2012. The outcome of this widespread consultation, approved by the then Northumberland County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, confirmed the reconfiguration of emergency care, across the County, which saw the approval to build a new specialist emergency care hospital in Cramlington. Therefore

any new development in Berwick will be purely focussed on the provision of the current services provided within Berwick Hospital and will not reopen any previous decision relating to emergency care.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to write to me and please do come along to any future engagement we plan. In the meantime, I understand that you have met with Claire Riley from the Trust following a recent Health and Well Being Board. As agreed, during your discussions, do forward to Claire any questions you have and we will endeavour to answer them for you.

Yours sincerely

  
**JIM MACKEY**  
**Chief Executive**