

Our Ref S/HWB/WIC/
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Chairman of Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Ged Clarke

County Hall, West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7QP

The Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Dear Mr Lansley

**Referral of proposals not in the interest of the health service
Walk-in Centres Review – NHS Nottinghamshire County**

On Monday 4 April 2011 Nottinghamshire County Council's Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee – an overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) – agreed to refer proposals known as the Walk-in Centre Review to the Secretary of State for Health. The Committee requests that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel be invited to review these proposals to ensure that alternative services are in place before the proposals are implemented, this should include implementing improvements to access to primary care. Communication and awareness raising measures should also be undertaken by the Trust before the centres are closed.

The overview and scrutiny committee considers that **the proposals are not in the interests of the health service. This is by virtue of**

- **insufficient assurance of adequate alternative services** of the same or greater quality being in place before the proposals are to be implemented
- **the Trust not taking into account the public interest** communicated through the consultation

These referrals follow from discussion and information presented to the Standing Committee on 4 April. A copy of the report and presentation from that meeting are included with this letter.

Detailed consideration of the proposals has also been undertaken by a sub committee of the standing committee. A copy of the findings from that review is included with this letter.

I look forward to receiving your response to this referral and the opportunity to provide further information to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ged Clarke
Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee

cc

Chairman of NHS Nottinghamshire County
Chief Executive of NHS Nottinghamshire County
Leader Nottinghamshire County Council