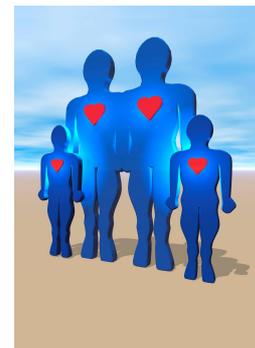


www.savethealex.co.uk
37 Britannia Close
Smallwood
Redditch
B98 7BN



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

Dear Mr Johnson

RE: Worcester Acute Hospitals Trust / Alexandra Hospital Redditch

In October 2005 Worcester Acute Hospitals Trust (WAHT) laid out proposals to cut services at Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, including the loss of Maternity, Paediatrics and emergency Gynaecology.

Since then WAHT has been involved in so called preliminary consultation in which they have continued to change the reasons why Redditch should lose these services. The reasons have ranged from financial to clinical safety to numbers of births to the failure of WAHT to recruit staff, all of which when challenged have proved not to be valid arguments. Three Petitions with over 18,000 signatures, one of which was run by Jacqui Smith MP have been accepted by WAHT.

However, currently the mother and baby unit at the Alexandra Hospital is closed at weekends, I am told that the WAHT review is still ongoing and that services remain at risk. On top of this West Midlands SHA is also carrying out a review and Worcestershire have seen the merging of the three Worcestershire PCT's, incidently the Redditch and Bromsgrove PCT were against the proposals laid out by WAHT.

This as I am sure you are aware is all happening whilst the Government carries out its own review of the NHS led by Professor Darzi; I hope you would agree it is hard to see when the uncertainty for services at Alexandra Hospital and wider Worcestershire will end.

I would ask you to ensure that the review process Redditch /Worcestershire has faced will not be used as a model for other Hospitals as it has led to confusion and complete lack of Trust in WAHT. Further can you assure me that no decisions are made till the Government has carried out its review, this hopefully might succeed in getting a period of stability at the Alexandra Hospital, wider Worcestershire Health services and Management Structure.

I look forward to your reply,

Yours sincerely