



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Simon Stevens
CEO
NHS England
By email: England.mp@nhs.net

13th December 2017

Dear Simon,

I am writing to you regarding NHS England's consultation on a new model for radiotherapy services in England. I understand that the consultation is currently seeking feedback on a new specification for adult radiotherapy services.

I welcome NHS England's £130 million investment in radiotherapy equipment, and I appreciate the importance of radiotherapy treatment and its effectiveness in treating cancer. I also understand the rationale behind the creation of eleven regional radiotherapy networks across the UK.

However, following conversations with several of my constituents, I would like to raise some concerns with you. There is considerable anxiety at the prospect of radiotherapy treatments for certain cancers being moved from the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro to Derriford Hospital in Plymouth.

For my constituents in Camborne, Redruth and Hayle (West Cornwall), travelling to Plymouth for treatment will present problems. A journey to Plymouth will involve a four hour round trip by car, and longer by public transport. To travel so far after such treatment would be particularly hard. Additionally, I must raise the prospect of affordability of making this journey for treatment.

As I have said, I understand the rationale for these proposals. However, in the case of Cornwall, centralising some cancer services will be detrimental to patient wellbeing. Cornwall is a rural county, and I have met constituents who struggle to get to appointments at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro. For this reason, I have grave concerns about patients needing to travel to Plymouth.

I would like to urge you to consider the effects of these proposals on rural areas such as West Cornwall. I would be very happy to discuss this matter further should the opportunity arise.

Kind regards,

George Eustice MP