



# Department of Health & Social Care

From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

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Councillor Sara Randall-Johnson  
Chair, Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee  
Devon County Council  
County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter, Devon, EX2 4QD

17 March 2022

Dear Councillor Randall-Johnson,

**Referral by Devon County Council Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee under Regulation 23(9) of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 of changes to services in Teignmouth Community Hospital in Teignmouth, Devon along with Torbay Hospital and Community Hospitals in Dawlish as proposed by Devon Clinical Commissioning Group.**

As you know this case was referred to me for consideration and I asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) for their advice. They have now reported to me and I have accepted their advice in full, along with the recommendations they made in response to this case.

After careful consideration, the IRP is of the view that the CCG did consult adequately with the Scrutiny Committee in terms of content and time allowed. However, while agreeing with the CCG on adequacy and timing, they have made a number of recommendations where improvements can be made, such as allowing sufficient time for deliberation, as well as process ones that I expect to be taken on board going forward in this case but also any future service reconfiguration.

I also particularly support the IRP's recommendations that:

- The NHS must engage the local community and interested parties, such as the local authority, in a programme to determine the future of the TCH site.
- The CCG should explore transport options for affected patients, and establish a specific time-limited standing group of stakeholders, including patient representatives, transport providers, and planning authorities, to scope out the work required and the time frame for each action

I therefore ask Devon ICS and NHS Devon CCG to work with the HACSC to implement these decisions. I enclose a copy of the IRP's advice and we will be writing to the commissioners in three months to understand how the recommendations are being implemented.

I am copying this letter to Sir Norman Williams, Chair of the IRP and I have written in similar terms to NHS England, Devon Integrated Care System and NHS Devon CCG.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Javid".

**RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**