



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
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Councillor Mary Weale
Chairman of the Health, Environmental Health and
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Rt. Hon. Andrew Lansley, CBE, MP
The Secretary of State for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2NS

27th March 2012

Dear Secretary of State for Health,

Re: The Safe and Sustainable review of "Children's Congenital Heart Service in England" and its effects on Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust

I am formally writing to you as the Chairman of Kensington and Chelsea's Health, Environmental Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee about the decision to cut children's congenital heart services at Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust.

If the proposal is implemented without further consultation it would breach the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Health Scrutiny functions) regulations 2002 - prepared under section 38 of the Local Government Act 2000 - specifically Section 4(5) (a) and (b) dealing with inadequate consultation and Section 4(7) dealing with proposals not being in the interests of health services in the area.

The consultation by Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts was inadequate because it did not consider the knock-on effects of their proposal on the medical and financial viability of Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust. In particular, there was a lack of consultation on the impact on their respiratory services. This should have been a consideration in the decision making process. However, Safe & Sustainable only commissioned a panel, led by Adrian Pollitt, to look at the knock on effects on respiratory medicine *after* the public consultation.

As the consultation was clearly lacking we now formally refer the matter to you. We remain of the view that the best option for children's congenital heart services in London could have simply come about from improved collaboration between the three expert centres.

Yours faithfully,

cc The Leader
Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, MP
Karen Buck, MP
Chairman of NHS London
Chairman of NWL PCTs
Chairman of the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust

