

POC1_486351

Councillor Godfrey Horne MBE
Chairman Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Legal and Democratic Services
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Richmond House
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24 MAR 2010

Dear Mr Horne,

REFERRAL BY KENT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHANGES TO WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES AT MAIDSTONE AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS NHS TRUST)

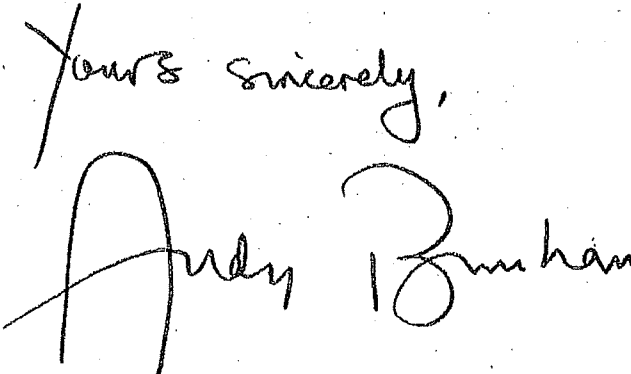
Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2010 in which you refer proposals for changes to women's and children's services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

I am today writing to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) asking them to undertake an initial review on your referral. Should the IRP advise that a full review is necessary, you will have the chance to present your case to them in full.

I have asked the IRP to report to me no later than 7 May 2010.

I am copying this letter to Dr Peter Barrett, Chair of the IRP and to Candy Morris, Chief Executive of NHS South East Coast.

Finally, I would be grateful if you could forward me a final copy of the minutes from your task and finish group of 19 February 2010 in order to put your referral into context.

Yours sincerely,


ANDY BURNHAM