



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon. Victoria Atkins MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

5th March 2024

Dear Victoria,

Re: Proposals for the future location of specialist cancer services for children

We are writing to you as MPs representing constituencies in southwest London to express our serious concerns about the potential decision to move paediatric cancer services away from St George's Hospital and place them at the Evelina Hospital.

The Evelina is a fantastic hospital that delivers excellent services to children in London. However, it is our firm belief that it is in the best interests of staff, patients, and our local communities for the centre to remain at St George's. The children's cancer services that St George's has provided in partnership with the Royal Marsden for the past twenty-five years have been invaluable to communities across southwest London and the southeast of England.

A child living with cancer is a traumatic experience for the whole family, and parents and carers are reassured by the experience and knowledge at St George's. Moving the cancer centre away from St George's risks losing such institutional expertise and professional networks that have been developed over decades. We are also concerned about the potential risk the proposed relocation poses to the delivery of other crucial NHS services in southwest London.

Furthermore, the recently published consultation results reinforce the fact that St George's is a better option. One of the biggest priorities for respondents was ensuring a new centre was conveniently located, particularly in terms of access by car. This is very important when transporting an immuno-suppressed child. It is notoriously difficult, and often stressful, to travel to central London via car which is where the Evelina is located. By contrast, St George's is easily accessible via car, with good road links to other parts of the region and, according to child cancer patients and their parents, this makes hospital visits far easier.

Another key priority highlighted by the consultation was having important specialisms available on one site. St George's offers neurosurgery which is required by a quarter of all child cancer patients, whereas the Evelina does not currently provide this service.

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Taking such factors into consideration, and after hearing the experiences of residents in southwest London and beyond, it is our view that children's cancer care must remain at St Georges.

We hope these views are properly taken into consideration by NHS England. If the decision on 14 March is taken in favour of relocating the service to Evelina hospital, then we will explore using our more formal call-in powers to ensure that these concerns are addressed.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Munira Wilson in black ink.

Munira Wilson
MP for Twickenham

Handwritten signature of Sir Ed Davey in black ink.

Sir Ed Davey
MP for Kingston & Surbiton

Handwritten signature of Sarah Olney in black ink.

Sarah Olney
MP for Richmond Park