



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

15th April 2013

Dear Mr Hunt,

We are writing to express our deep concerns about the proposed closure of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital, following the publication of new data on mortality rates at the different services in England.

We have long understood the need for reform of children's heart surgery services. However, we strongly believe any decisions about the future of paediatric cardiac services must be based on the best available clinical evidence and the latest data, to ensure that every child gets the best possible standards of care.

This weekend NHS England published data from the National Institute for Cardiac Outcomes Research (NICOR) on mortality rates from Paediatric Cardiac Surgery in England from 2009 - 2012. This data, which has been risk adjusted by specific procedure, age, weight, diagnosis and co-morbidities, shows that Glenfield Children's Heart Surgery Unit has the second lowest relative risk for death rates of any unit in the country.

You will be aware that the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts did not consider mortality rates as part of the Safe and Sustainable Review of Children's Heart Surgery Services last year. Whilst we realise that decisions of this kind cannot be based on death rates alone, we agree with John Deanfield, the Director of NICOR, who in his letter to NHS England accompanying the new data said: "Mortality is only one measure of quality, but currently is the most robust available outcome."

Parents and the public will only support changes to services if they are based on the best available clinical data. They will rightly question any changes that lead to the closure of services which are currently delivering the best outcomes for children.

We believe the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP), which is currently reviewing proposals from the Safe and Sustainable Review, must now give full and proper consideration to this new data and that the decision to close Glenfield must be reversed.



We look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Kendall MP
MP for Leicester West

Nicky Morgan MP
MP for Loughborough

Graham Allen MP
Leicester South

Jonathan Ashworth MP
MP for Leicester South

Andrew Bridgen MP for
MP for North West
Leicestershire

Vernon Coaker MP
MP for Gedling

Gloria De Piero MP
MP for Ashfield

Lilian Greenwood MP
MP for Nottingham South

Philip Hollobone MP
MP for Kettering

Pauline Latham MP
MP for Mid Derbyshire

Karl McCartney MP
MP for Lincoln

Dennis Skinner MP
MP for Bolsover

David Tredinick MP
MP for Bosworth

Heather Wheeler MP
MP for South Derbyshire

Chris Williamson MP
MP for Derby North

Keith Vaz MP
MP for Leicester East