



Northern, Eastern and Western Devon
Clinical Commissioning Group

James Brent
Chair
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
Barrack Road
Exeter, EX2 5DW

Via email

29 September 2015

Dear James,

I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter of 04 August 2015 cancer targets and the ongoing contractual repercussions thereof.

I am pleased to note the RD&E Board's close attention to the Trust's performance against cancer targets and the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) submitted to the CCG.

In respect of "penalties" arising from failure to meet the targets and have an agreed remedial action plan, I feel it is important to be clear that the current contractual position is that monies are being temporarily withheld in line with national contract terms. Permanent withholding of monies would only occur after six months should we still not have an agreed recovery plan. We continue to work with the expectation that an agreed RAP will be developed within that timeframe and hence currently the withheld monies remain within the 2015-16 RD&E contract envelope.

With regard to the RAP submissions over recent months, the CCG has not seen any change in the profiling of patient flows which gives the commissioner assurance that performance will achieve the target in a more timely and sustainable manner than initially proposed. Indeed the latest information indicates that the number of patients waiting more than 62 days for treatment continues to increase.

I am advised that the activity changes noted in 2014-15 for the 62 day cancer pathway would have been factored into the contract negotiations for the current year in respect of both CCG & NHS England commissioned cancer services and I would presume, therefore, that capacity considerations, be they short or longer term, would have formed part of those discussions. If the subsequent judgement of the Trust is

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Chief Officer: Rebecca Harriott

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that there is a need for commissioner re-direction of some of this activity elsewhere, this remains an option, but I understand that this has not thus far been proposed by the Trust.

I would be happy to discuss this directly with yourself if that would be helpful and remain confident that our respective teams can achieve a satisfactory solution that delivers the level of care we would all wish to see in place for the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Burke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Tim Burke
Chair
Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG

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