

**Mrs Margaret Whitehead**

Chairman  
Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

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Xxx March 2013

Mr Chris Adcock, Interim Chief Executive  
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust  
Royal Sussex County Hospital  
Eastern Road  
Brighton  
BN2 5BE

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Dear Mr Adcock,

We are writing to you as the chairmen of the health scrutiny committees for East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. We are aware that Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust has experienced some significant challenges recently in terms of your ability to deliver the 4-hour standard of care. We welcome the fact that you have been open and honest about the pressures facing Royal Sussex County and Princess Royal Hospitals – and understand that some of these pressures are system-wide. However, we are concerned that our residents should be receiving the best possible care, and that their experience of hospital care should be a positive one. We are therefore looking for reassurance from you that the Trust is doing all it can to manage demand and capacity to ensure that the situation doesn't arise again where you are forced to call an internal major incident (as happened at the end of February).

It would be helpful if you could outline:

- How BSUH is working to manage capacity at both the Royal Sussex County and Princess Royal Hospitals
- How you are working with the system as a whole (i.e. ambulance service, community services, social services across Sussex) to manage demand
- Any work being undertaken to understand the reasons for the pressure on services – which we understand is being experienced by acute trusts across the region.

We hope to be able to support you in addressing these challenges, and suggest that it may be helpful to arrange for some of our committee members to visit both Royal Sussex County and Princess Royal Hospitals at some point in the future.

Cont/...

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Whitehead.

Mrs Margaret Whitehead  
Chairman, West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

Mr Rupert Simmonds  
Chairman, East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Sven Rufus  
Chairman, Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

c.c. Julian Lee (Chairman)

DRAFT