



Department
of Health

From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
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De Simon,

Redevelopment of the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton

Thank you for your letter of 27 November regarding the redevelopment of the Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH) in Brighton. I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for the interest and commitment you continue to show in the future of the RSCH and the health of local people, and for your many Parliamentary Questions, meetings with Ministers, petitioning and hard work behind the scenes on this issue.

I can confirm categorically that development of the Regional Centre for Teaching, Trauma and Tertiary Care (3Ts) at the RSCH was not approved by the previous Government, and that it is not the case that this Government has withheld the release of funds for its construction.

The Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for the redevelopment of the hospital was approved by NHS South East Coast strategic health authority (SHA) in 2008. This merely confirmed there was a strategic case for the 3Ts redevelopment of the RSCH and authorised Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust to develop detailed plans to Outline Business Case (OBC) level. SOC approval did not authorise any expenditure on construction works on site and did not require approval by the Government.

The Trust submitted the OBC to the Department of Health in September 2009. However, no approval was given by the Government before the General Election in 2010. The Trust subsequently submitted a revised OBC to the Department in January 2012, which was approved by the SHA in March 2012. However, as you are aware, formal approval by the Government has not been given and the case is

still under review with the Department and HM Treasury now working closely with the NHS Trust Development Authority and the Trust to achieve this.

Once the OBC approval has been given by the Government, the Trust will develop the Full Business Case (FBC) confirming the scheme's build specification, final construction costs, affordability and contract details. Only after FBC approval has been given will the Government release funds for construction of the new hospital.

The Trust has sought some funding from the Department for early works in advance of approval. The Department will only release funding for early works where they will have clear benefit to the Trust even in the event that the overall redevelopment were not to be approved. To date, only a small amount of funding has been provided to the Trust for works on the site.

I hope you find this reply helpful and I would like to thank you for your continued interest and support for the scheme.



JEREMY HUNT