

**Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists: Response to Horton HOSC Invitation**

Dear Ms Shepherd,

Thank you for your email and the information provided in relation to the 19th December meeting of the Horton Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I am writing to clarify the RCOG's position with regard to local maternity reconfiguration matters. Whilst the RCOG provides national guidance on issues such as safe staffing and maternity safety, it does not comment on matters of local reconfiguration where it has not been explicitly commissioned to do so. Having now reviewed the terms of the meeting scheduled for the 19th, the RCOG is not appropriately informed to comment on the local issues affecting the Oxfordshire CCG and obstetric service. The RCOG promotes the principle that standards of care must be maintained by having the appropriate workforce, with the necessary competencies, in the right place at the right time and is clear that any solution must be tailored to local need. We therefore wish to decline the invitation to contribute to this particular meeting on this occasion.

I would like to use this opportunity to highlight our most recent activity regarding workforce, Providing Quality Care for Women – O&G Workforce [report here](#) and our latest work on Workforce from [2017 report](#) and [2018 Workforce](#).

I do hope that your meeting next week results in a positive outcome for women and their babies.

With best wishes,

Lesley Regan  
**Professor Lesley Regan MD DSc FRCOG FACOG**

President Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists