

Date: 14 September 2020

**Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview
and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
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Dr Bruno Holthof
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Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust
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cc (for info): Dr James Kent, Single Accountable Officer,
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
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Dear Dr Holthof,

Re: Maternity patient partners

I am writing on behalf of the Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to encourage Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) Foundation Trust to allow the attendance of maternity patient partners at all scans, appointments and post-partum stays going forward.

Whilst the committee understands and welcomes that OUH is currently allowing partners to be present for birth under COVID-19 restrictions, I wish to encourage the Trust to reconsider the requirement for partners to leave shortly afterwards. I understand that different approaches have been taken to the issue of maternity patient partner attendance across the country and would be delighted if Oxfordshire's patients and partners were facilitated to attend together throughout their maternity journey with you.

Given that the nation is no longer in full lock-down and despite the rule of six coming in to force today, it is relatively easy to socialise, with significant life events such as weddings able to proceed with up to 30 guests. I am concerned about the mental well-being aspects of expectant and new Mothers having to be alone at another, very significant life event that is becoming a parent. I am particularly concerned when complications or adverse events occur which create additional stress.

I look forward to hearing the OUH position on this issue.

Yours Sincerely



Cllr Arash Fatemian
Chairman Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

