



MAKING HEALTHCARE BETTER

Beechwood Hall, Kingsmead Road
High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1JL
t: +44 (0) 1494 560 000
www.inhealthgroup.com

Cllr Fatemian
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Wednesday 3rd April, 2019

Dear Cllr Fatemian,

Thank you for the invitation received today to attend the HOSC tomorrow on Thursday 4th April. I can confirm that I will attend with my colleague Ralph Toop, Head of PET-CT, for your agenda item on Regional PET-CT Scanning Services. We will be pleased to contribute where appropriate, although it seems that much of the background and clarity should be covered in the respective inputs from NHSE and OUH. I have provided some further information below, which hopefully provides some context and supports the papers from NHSE and OUH. I would be grateful if this statement could be published on your website alongside the related items.

As one of the UK's leading providers of PET-CT services, InHealth has delivered diagnostic imaging in partnership with the NHS for more than 20 years. We have carried out 15,000 PET-CT scans annually, with a patient satisfaction rate of over 99%. Our highly skilled, specialist team are experts in the provision of this service and operate advanced scanners across the UK to deliver modern, efficient services for patients.

By way of background, in 2005, the UK had only a handful of PET scanners servicing the population. At that time, the NHS started to develop partnerships with independent providers, such as InHealth, to accelerate the availability of this technology in order to bring high quality, efficient scanning services to patients during their cancer pathway. Today, there are over 70 PET-CT scanners in the UK, fixed and mobile, demonstrating the growth in this much-needed diagnostic technology.

InHealth's preferred bid for the service commissioned by NHS England was based on a range of factors, including clinical and service quality, improved patient access, investment in equipment, value for the taxpayer, and extension of services across the Thames Valley region for cancer patients who currently travel to Oxford for PET-CT scans. We understand the contract award is consistent with national policy in planning for growth in demand for PET-CT.

Our experience of delivering more than 2 million scans, tests and examinations each year has shown that convenience is a key priority for patients in accessing services as close to home as possible.





MAKING HEALTHCARE BETTER

The geographic extension of the service to Swindon and Milton Keynes, combined with the continuation of services in Oxford, represents a progressive solution for patients requiring PET-CT scans, as part of their cancer pathway.

The InHealth mobile PET-CT scanner intended to be used in the early years of this service is the only one of its kind in Europe, and only the second in the world on a mobile. It has a 128slice CT, which not all dedicated CT fixed scanners have installed. Similar mobile scanners are currently successfully in operation by InHealth and provide high quality services at Barts Hospital, Royal Marsden Hospital and St George's Hospital in London. The use of mobile scanners as a supplement to capacity and extension of geography is frequently part of an overall solution – moving the scanning service to the patient and not the patient to the scan.

The particular scanner uses FlowMotion™ technology which combines Siemens Healthineers standard-setting PET-CT with a unique system design to enable the continuous motion of the patient table, which returns increased image quality, greater patient comfort, and shorter scanning times. The scanner is up to 200% improvement in signal-to-noise ratio for better image quality, lower dose or faster scan speed. Patients, meanwhile, benefit from a larger bore scanner of 78cm, and an increased patient weight of up to 227kg, resulting in a greater patient demographic being scanned.

InHealth has proactively managed a full range of patients including hoist, immobile and inpatients, with recent examples shown in the NHS PET-CT South contract where InHealth managed up to 15,000 patients per year. The majority of PET-CT scans are for outpatients and the segmentation by stage, type and geography is a key part of patient preparation and booking.

In terms of reporting of scans, InHealth has a cohort of PET-CT reporters to supplement reporting for the region where necessary, and in addition we will seek to support and train local reporters as we establish the new service locations, initially through mobile services before fixed sites are in place.

InHealth is a long-experienced and well-respected NHS provider in both hospital and out-of-hospital settings. Our priority is, and always has been, to support the NHS in providing high quality services to patients and we hope to work collaboratively with Oxford University Hospitals to further develop healthcare solutions for the local population.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bradford", with a horizontal line underneath.

Richard Bradford
Chief Executive Officer