



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Seema Kennedy MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care

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Cllr Arash Fatemian
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05 JUN 2019

Dear Cllr Fatemian

Letter concerning the decision to name a preferred bidder and award the contract for PET CT scanning services in Oxfordshire

Thank you for your letter of 7th May concerning this matter. I have considered your submission in relation to the relevant legislation (the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013).

While I appreciate the concerns you raise in your submission, having taken advice I am afraid I do not consider it to be a valid referral under the Regulations. This is in part because, as I am sure you are aware, discussions are continuing about a possible partnership arrangement between Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), NHS England and InHealth. While these discussions continue, it is difficult to assess whether or not a substantial development or variation has indeed occurred. In addition, I note that the issues that you have raised about the process followed are focused on the procurement process. As you will appreciate, our focus in considering whether the Regulations apply or not is whether or not a service change has occurred.

I am also writing to NHS England, OUH and InHealth to encourage them to pursue their discussions about a potential partnership with vigour and to keep both myself and your committee informed about their progress. I have asked them to provide an update by the end of June.

Yours sincerely,

SEEMA KENNEDY

