

Mr TS Bhinder

Coventry

10 October 2005

Mr R Ainsworth
Member of Parliament for Coventry North East
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Ainsworth,

Where has all the reported money invested into our NHS Trust gone? We are presented with the brand new PFI development that will replace the Walsgrave, but will it have enough capacity for Coventry's population? We have been told that Trust Managers can now apply for foundation status, which allows more freedom from government control, but is this wise given that Mr Stoten has just announced cutbacks in healthcare as the Trust needs to save £7.8 million before next April.

The Trust closed ward B3 on 6th October 2005, B3, meaning that 159 patients a month will have to be re-housed at a time when there is increasing pressure on bed availability and this will increase waiting lists. But that's apparently okay because the patients on B3 were mainly waiting for operations such as hernia repairs or gall bladder operations!

What the Trust failed to announce was the closure of the Cancer day-care centre before the end of October revealed in the Coventry Evening Telegraph on the 7th October 2005. I thought that treatment of cancer was a priority for our government. Was I wrong?

I hope that you are as extremely concerned at the failure of the Trust Managers to put patients first instead of rash closures as I am. There must be other savings that Mr Stoten and his managers could make that would not impact directly upon patient care. I am sure that even you Mr Ainsworth, with your track record of backing Mr Stoten and the Trust Management, cannot support these measures. What steps are you taking to check that patient care is not being compromised by these cutbacks and investigate why

they have had to be made in the first place, considering that the Trust had to be financially sound in order to be awarded 3 stars only in August?

I look forward to hearing your early response and what action you intend to take.

Yours sincerely,

Mr TS Bhinder

Cc: Mr G Robinson MP, Mr J Cunningham MP