



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Will Quince MP
Minister of State for Health and Secondary Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

PO-1436561

Councillor Shaun Davies
Leader
Telford and Wrekin Council
By email to: shaun.davies@telford.gov.uk

10 May 2023

Dear Councillor Davies,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 January about the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust Transformation Programme. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in replying.

I am grateful to you for raising your concerns and sharing the petition signed by local residents.

As you will be aware, there has been a long process to work through the right approach to service change in Shrewsbury and Telford. As you know, Telford and Wrekin Council referred this case to the then Secretary of State in March 2019.

In 2019, the decision of the then Secretary of State, based on the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, was to consolidate the A&E services onto the Shrewsbury site and to operate an 'A&E local' from the Telford site. The then Secretary of State asked NHS England to provide advice on how emergency care at Princess Royal Hospital can be delivered through an A&E local in Telford.

The then Secretary of State gave his final decision in October 2019 and asked for the reconfiguration to go ahead without further delay. This decision has not changed.

As set out in *Transforming the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital: Strategic Outline Case*, the implementation of a new A&E local model at Telford will mean that patients requiring urgent care services, around 65 per cent of those currently attending the A&E, will continue to get their needs met at their closest hospital site, meeting the recommendation of the independent reconfiguration panel and relevant urgent care guidance. This ensures care continues closer to home where clinically appropriate. More information is available at www.shropshiretelfordandwrekin.ics.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/HTP_SOC_FINAL_v5_23.07.22.pdf.

The department's position regarding the delivery of healthcare services is that the business case process is the primary means by which we, and the trust, determine what will be delivered within the allocated funding envelope of £312 million. We recognise the importance of this process in ensuring that resources are used effectively and efficiently to achieve the best outcomes for patients.

I am pleased that the strategic outline case was approved in August, allowing the trust to move to the next stage in the business case process. In order to support the trust to develop the outline business base, £9.9 million was also approved in principle.

We will continue to work closely with colleagues in NHS England and the trust to support the development of business cases for new projects and initiatives. While we recognise that additional funding may be required for business case fees or enabling works, any such requests will be considered as part of our ongoing review and planning of budgets for the upcoming financial years.

We remain committed to supporting the trust in delivering the best possible outcomes for patients, and we look forward to working together to achieve this goal.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Will Quince', written in a cursive style.

**WILL QUINCE MP
MINISTER OF STATE**