



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

**Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough**

The Right Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
House of Commons
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Via email: stephen.barclay.mp@parliament.uk

3 July 2023

Dear Secretary of State

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Hospital Transformation Programme

I wrote to you on 20 March 2023 regarding the above. A copy of that letter is enclosed for ease.

You will see that, in my last letter, I urged you to take on board the views of residents in Telford & Wrekin and reconsider the following decisions:-

- Siting urgent care provision at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital;
- Downgrading the 24/7 Accident & Emergency department at Princess Royal Hospital, Telford to an 'A&E Local' – a concept that still lacks clarity for residents;
- Downgrading care provision for women and children at Princess Royal Hospital, Telford moving consultant-led emergency care to Shrewsbury.

On the same date, our legal advisors also wrote to you setting out why the original business case supporting these proposals - made in 2018 - is no longer supported by the latest census data and is based upon data that is now at least eight years out of date.

Our advisors set out how Telford & Wrekin has, amongst other things:-

- A faster growing ageing population than Shropshire;
- A growing number of women and children within the Borough;
- A disproportionately higher number of residents without access to a private motor vehicle than in Shropshire meaning our residents can face significant challenges to travel more than 20 miles to access hospital care and treatment; and
- Greater health inequalities than in Shropshire.

Concerns were also raised in this letter regarding the lack of transparency and clarity over what residents in Telford & Wrekin can expect from the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford if the proposals go ahead.

Again, a copy of this letter is enclosed for ease.

Every time this Council engages with communities in Telford & Wrekin, the proposals relating to the hospital are raised. You only have to look at the Council's social media pages to see how important it is to those living and working in the Borough.

The impact of these changes will be devastating to the health and wellbeing of those living in the Borough. It is just not realistic or fair to expect someone to take six buses and travel for three hours at cost of £7.50 to access vital health care in Shrewsbury, which is 20 miles away.

It is disappointing that, almost three months on, neither I nor the Council's legal advisors have received a response.

At best, this demonstrates an apathy on the part of this government towards the 185,000 residents of Telford & Wrekin. At worst, it shows a wilful contempt for their wellbeing.

I urge you to now give this matter your urgent attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Davies', with a horizontal line underneath.

Cllr Shaun Davies

Leader- Telford & Wrekin Council

Councillor for Malinslee & Dawley Bank (Labour)

Senior Vice Chair of the Local Government Association