

**Chief Executive's Office
Room 28, 1st Floor, Grosvenor Wing**

10th June 2016

Guildhall
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey
KT11EU

Dear Councillor Day

Urogynaecology Subspecialty Service

Thank you for your letter of 25th February to Miles Scott regarding the public consultation on the Urogynaecology Subspecialty Service. I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter. Unfortunately the correspondence was misplaced as a result of the recent changes at St George's.

As you will be aware urogynaecology is a subspecialty of gynaecology for the management of women with pelvic floor dysfunction. St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (SGUH) provided an acute local and tertiary urogynaecology service as a subspecialty within the Women's Services directorate.

The urogynaecology service was suspended in June 2015 due to concerns about the safety and governance of the service. External professional organisations had tried to intervene on these issues without success. Following review by the division, the Medical Director and a number of external parties, a decision was taken to suspend the service in order to give time to better understand the available options that would reassure the trust that quality, safety and governance could be restored. As a consequence of the decision to suspend the service a number of steps were taken with immediate effect including the need to: find suitable alternative provision for the patients; understand and manage the related impact on other services; and ensure adequate engagement with key stakeholders with appropriate consideration afforded to equality issues to guide future decision making.

I am aware that you have seen that papers and minutes from trust board meeting on the 3rd March which considered this issue. The trust board met on 3 March 2016 and supported the proposal for the trust to begin a process of liaison with commissioners to understand the appetite and specification for the re-establishment of a urogynaecology service at SGUH. Any reconfigured service would need to meet the requirements of both clinical and financial sustainability in accordance with the Trust's business case process. Any future consultation that may be required in relation to the urogynaecology service will be led by the CCG as commissioner. The service will remain in suspension during this period and there is no immediate prospect of the urogynaecology service at St George's being reinstated.

Since the trust board on the 3 March 2016, the trust has had a series of meetings and discussions with Wandsworth CCG regarding the future provision of a urogynaecology service.

Wandsworth CCG has identified a GP clinical lead who will be working closely with SGUH on the development of any potential new service specification. Building on similar models of care for patients with long term conditions, Wandsworth CCG anticipate that care will be delivered wherever possible by GPs and specialised community staff (physiotherapists and nurses) with leadership from the SGUH team and specialised support from CUH.

Wandsworth CCG anticipates that this should enable patients to have care as close to home as possible, while remaining confident that the specialised input is available if required.

SGUH are working closely with Wandsworth CCG and intend to produce a service specification for testing more widely with stakeholders in the autumn. Consideration of the views of the Health Scrutiny Committees of Kingston, Merton and Sutton will of course be a key part of this process.

I hope this clarifies the current position and next steps.

Yours sincerely

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

Simon Mackenzie
Chief Executive
St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust