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**Councillor Mrs Christine Talbot**

By email

20 November 2013

Dear Councillor Talbot

When I declined your invitation to attend the 20 November meeting of the Lincolnshire OSC, I promised instead to send a short written update. I am sorry that this update was not sent before today, due to an oversight on my part. I appreciate this will make it unlikely you can discuss the update at your meeting and I apologise for the oversight and for the inconvenience caused.

Since we met on 18 September, NHS England has continued the process of engagement with stakeholders and the development of the work required to ensure a standards-based, nationally consistent approach to commissioning congenital heart services. Amongst other things we have:

- clarified the role of the Clinical Reference Groups (CRGs), in developing service specifications ready for full public consultation in the spring. We have also addressed concerns about public patient involvement on the CRGs
- announced that Professor Pedro del Nido, Chief of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital, USA, will provide an international perspective to the review's Clinical Advisory Panel
- published details of the proposal being developed by NHS England's analysts for refreshing the data which underpins our understanding of the services currently being provided, and which may be required in future
- provided an update on our discussions with Healthwatch England about their engagement
- published the notes of my attendance at Yorkshire and Humber joint OSC
- attended a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (of MPs and peers) and published all the associated materials including our own note of proceedings
- published a transcript of our 18 July Board meeting (in addition to the video already online)
- published the minutes of our Board's Task and Finish Group of 30 September
- published the papers for our first Programme Board on 21 October
- published weblinks to the answers to various Parliamentary questions
- confirmed the intended scope of our review (which was decided by the Board

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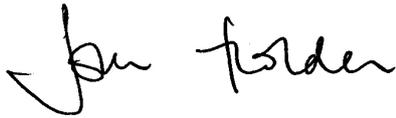
Task and Finish Group on 28 October after a recommendation from the Clinical Advisory Panel, which in turn considered over 40 submissions from various stakeholders following a 2 week period of engagement on the draft scope paper) – your own submission on this topic dated 24 October was taken into account

- published the extract of minutes from your 18 September meeting, which you kindly provided
- attended the first meeting of the patient and public engagement group, and the first meeting of the provider group
- published a note of a meeting of the work to align the 3 current sets of standards relating to congenital heart services
- published papers from our main Board meeting on 8 November.

I hope this update is helpful.

If you have any queries about the progress of the review please contact us at [england.congenitalheart@nhs.net](mailto:england.congenitalheart@nhs.net).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Holden', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Holden  
**Director of System Policy**