*Your address*

*The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group*

*c/o YOUR DOCTOR'S NAME AND SURGERY*

Dear Dr……

**Horton General Hospital, Banbury**

I wish to make you aware of my extreme concern regarding the proposed downgrading, or indeed closure, of the Horton Consultant Led Maternity Unit and the other cuts to vital services outlined in the Oxford University Hospital Trust's emerging options. I would ask that you convey these concerns in the strongest possible terms to the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) on my behalf.

It is vitally important that with an ever-expanding town and catchment area of Banbury – currently at unprecedented proportions, that we retain the full services of a General Hospital in Banbury.

The Horton not only serves Banbury town itself but a very large surrounding rural area. Many of those patients find themselves without the benefit of transport links. Due to cutbacks in local buses and the duration and duress of the journey to Oxford is prohibitively expensive and stressful. This creates unnecessary pressure, which, is not conducive to the health and well-being of the patient.  You need to be physically fit to undertake the journey. Transporting small children on public transport is difficult enough at the best of times. Within the Horton’s catchment, there are three areas of significant deprivation. These people cannot afford a car or taxi to transport themselves and their families to/from Oxford.

Hospitalisation in the JR also makes it very difficult for family and friends to visit the patient both in terms of transport difficulties and travel time. It is an acknowledged fact that lack of direct contact with loved ones is detrimental to the patient’s recovery and well-being.

With the imminent threat to the maternity unit, I share the huge concerns for the safety of both mothers and babies. Such an action will undoubtedly put unnecessary stress on the mother and increase the potential for harm to mother and baby and will inevitably result in loss of life.

I am aware that Oxford’s John Radcliffe hospital already struggles to accommodate all those mothers that currently use their maternity facilities. The closure of our Consultant Led Unit will add to that pressure and impact on other communities in the district. This is wholly unnecessary.

I would urge you to support that the full services of the Horton General Hospital are retained and that the OCCG are asked to reconsider the proposals. Services at The Horton General Hospital need to be expanded, not reduced.

Yours Sincerely,

CC: YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

& Keep The Horton General (keepthehortongeneral@hotmail.co.uk)

***You can download a copy of this letter from http://www.keepthehortongeneral.org/docs/letter\_to\_OCCG\_your\_doctor\_and\_your\_MP.docx***