



PRESS RELEASE

Secretary of State/Independent Reconfiguration Panel

As of 11 January 2018, Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, confirmed that he is referring the issue of the withdrawal of consultant led maternity services at the Horton General Hospital to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP).

Whilst requesting 'initial advice' from Lord Ribeiro, Chairman of the IRP, Mr Hunt specified that the advice be delivered by 9 February 2018 'in line with agreed protocol between the Department of Health and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel'.

Keep the Horton General was informed ahead of the embargo date of Mr Hunt's letter to local MP, Victoria Prentis, which it was happy to observe.

We apologise if this is now 'late news' but would add that we are delighted by the Secretary of State's decision. 'George Parish and Tony Baldry fought such a hard battle 2006-8 to retain the full services of a District General hospital. We firmly believe the decision made by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel then will stand firm in 2018' said Keep the Horton General Chairman, Keith Strangwood.

ends

11 January 2018

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