

KEEP THE HORTON GENERAL



Changes in scanning services for Oxfordshire patients?

Keep the Horton General (KTHG) is aware that considerable changes may be planned for the treatment of cancer patients who have formerly attended scanning appointments at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford.

A private (for profit) organisation 'In-Health' was awarded the contract to provide radiology services by NHSE/I - the amalgamation of NHS England and NHS Improvement.

This is the body responsible for overseeing foundation trusts and NHS trusts, as well as independent providers, that provide NHS-funded care. The current provider of the contract, Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust (OUHFT) was undercut in the tendering process. The tender, prepared by the in-house Head of the Nuclear Medicine Department, was not considered financially acceptable.

This is despite the fact that the 'In-Health' staff does not possess the professional qualifications required for the leadership of this category of nuclear diagnosis and treatment. In layman's terms the lead clinicians do not hold the ARSAC (Administration of Radioactive Substance Advisory Committee) licence. Currently located at the Churchill Hospital, in specially designed accommodation, the scanners would be moved to another location. Suggested sites are inappropriately converted buildings near the Oxford's ring road or in the Manor private hospital.

MP for Oxford East, Anneliese Dodds, expressed her concern about the potential outsourcing of the PET-SCAN provision away from OUHFT in the House of Commons this week. She continued 'we urgently need a debate around the privatisation of the NHS'.

KTHG Chairman, Keith Strangwood, suggested that the awarding of the contract – which equates to a major change in service provision – should have gone out for public consultation prior to the decision. 'We will be communicating with our lawyers as to the legality of this decision' he said.

ends

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For more details contact our Chairman, Keith Strangwood:

Tel: 07740 599736
www.keepthehortongeneral.org



Email: nkarnia@aol.com
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