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COUNCILLOR DENNIS PEARCE
(Labour, St. Helier Ward)

merton

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Date: 18 August 2017

Mr Daniel Elkeles
ESTH 2020-2030
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS
Trust
4th Floor
Ferguson House
St Helier
Wrythe Lane
Carshalton
Surrey SM5 1AA

Dear Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust

Re: 2020-30 Engagement

I am contacting you not only as a St Helier ward councillor but also as a local resident who has had to call on the offices of St Helier Hospital for his children in the past, but also as a community concern.

I have been associated with Friends of St Helier, a local day care organisation for the elderly which is dependent on St Helier Hospital for the long term healthcare of its elderly members, who range from approximately 95 down to 70 years of age. As the chair of this organisation for 13 years, I have had endless enquiries from concerned members who all live in the local area about the removal of services from St Helier, most critically, accident and emergency.

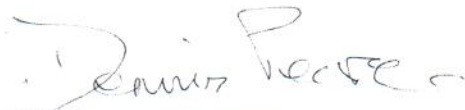
The generation that uses our facility quite frequently have to manage without their own personal transport and the proximity of St Helier within a single bus ride or with the use of a friend to transport them is critical in regard to their feeling of well-being. Not only is the elderly population growing, so is the primary school population which has over the last 5-10 years increased in the borough of Merton by 30% ; which when put together, increases the need for a local accident and emergency service plus all the other services that a fully functional hospital close to the community would provide.

The possibility of closing St Helier and transferring services to other hospitals such as Epsom or St George's, not only would put additional strain on their ability to cope but would also cause a great deal of unease in the community catchment area around St Helier. It seems totally incomprehensible to me that in the wider area where the elderly population and young families with children are increasing, all these services are potentially going to be cut.

I would request that you and your senior management team seriously review and reject this possibility. The consultations that have taken place on several occasions over the last decade, all appear to make it clear, that a refurbished

or brand new hospital on or near the existing site of the hospital is greatly preferred by all sections of the local community. I urge you when the reconsideration is taking place to seriously support this for the greater good of all the local residents that are in desperate need of all services currently provided by St Helier.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Pearce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Cllr Dennis Pearce