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Riverbank House, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2QG

Sir Geoffrey Cox, KC MP
First Floor
Lockyer House
Paddons Row
Tavistock
PL19 0HF



Our Ref: EOS/May23

Date: 09/06/2023

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

The External Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Torrige District Council have asked I write to you. The Committee wish to raise concerns in relation to the progress of the 'Our Future Hospital Programme' and the proposed building work at North Devon District Hospital.

Our partners from Health recently attended a meeting where they advised of the delays to the programme.

We would like answers to the following questions:

1. Why are there delays and are the reasons sound or is it down to poor management/incompetence/profiteering from contractors etc?
2. How much money has been committed and where is this held? What's already been spent towards it?
3. How long will it be until this vital work is completed?

In the meantime, the residents of your constituency continue to see their access and the quality of healthcare available to them eroded. I hope you agree that clarity regarding the investment and timescales to help progress this work is needed to help improve health outcomes for the people of Torrige.

In terms of ongoing care and services we would also like to have reassurance that no existing services in Barnstaple will be transferred to Exeter following the recent amalgamation.

As a committee we request that you raise these concerns as our MP, and put them to the Prime Minister, the Treasury and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

We look forward to your response and the answers to our questions.

Kind regards

Councillor Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin

Chair, External Overview & Scrutiny

Torridge District Council

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