



CHRIS LODER MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WEST DORSET

Cllr Adam Dance
Lead Member for Public Health
Somerset Council, County Hall
TAUNTON
Somerset
TA1 4DY

20th May 2024

Dear Cllr Dance

CLOSURE OF THE HYPER ACUTE STROKE UNIT (HASU) AT YEOVIL DISTRICT HOSPITAL (YDH) - SOMERSET COUNCIL'S POSITION

Whilst I am aware you are a parliamentary candidate for Yeovil, I am writing to you in your capacity as the Lead Member for Public Health at Somerset Council.

Approximately 25% of the patients at Yeovil District Hospital are from Dorset and this is why I have a close interest in the decision taken by NHS Somerset to close the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit.

On Thursday 8th February 2024, Somerset Council's Scrutiny Committee resolved to write to the Secretary of State to intervene in the NHS Somerset stroke reconfiguration plan. Despite your elected position of Lead Member for Public Health, I note you were not present at that meeting, and there has been no update of Somerset Council's actions or the position of the local authority in relation to the closure of the HASU at YDH. Would you be able to provide the latest update please?

I am particularly keen, having read the minutes of the meeting, to get clarity concerning the position of Somerset Council, since the Council's Chief Executive (who is also a voting member at the NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board) voted to close the HASU at YDH. Would you be able to provide the Council's position please in response to this question, since I assume the council's Chief Executive acts on health matters as directed by you in your capacity as Lead Member, if not the Cabinet?

In your additional role as council-appointed Governor for Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's Council, could you also confirm if you were consulted on the above decision and what information you were given before the Somerset NHS ICB made their decision to close the HASU.

Given the level and nature of public interest, I hope you will understand that I write to you openly.

Yours sincerely

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset