

POLICY COMMISSION FOR CARE TRUST DELIVERY AND HEALTH SCRUTINY

Cllr Erica Oulton, Chairman

County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD

PAPER D

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Jonathan Montgomery
Chairman
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority
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14 March 2006

Dear Sir,

Health Reconfiguration Consultation

Firstly we would like to thank you for travelling to the Island to make the presentation to our Policy Commission for Care, Health and Housing meeting in February.

We would like to acknowledge the success of the SHA in lobbying for the Island to be treated as a special case for the purposes of this consultation which recognises that we are moving towards one organisation delivering both primary and acute care as well as mental health and ambulance services. As a consequence, there is much in the consultation that does not apply to us, however we are part of the present SHA's region and we would like to respond.

Strategic Health Authority areas

The residents of the Isle of Wight are particularly sensitive when their services are about to be subsumed into larger organisations. There continue to be rumblings about the police call centre being on the mainland and now our fire and rescue call centre is under threat. There is a worry that any Island representation to a large organisation would be minimal and our position to influence decisions affecting the Island diminished. With that in mind, whilst one could say there may be synergy in joining the larger area with the South Coast holiday resorts and havens of elderly residents, we believe that the option for being part of the smaller new SHA would be more acceptable. We believe that we should remain with Hampshire and hope that the amalgamation with the Thames Valley will be less challenging financially than joining together in one huge authority covering the whole South East Region.

Ambulance Services area

The option that Ambulance services on the Island would be managed by the new single organisation is strongly recommended. There is plenty of evidence to show that the Island Fire and Rescue Service works well in collaboration with mainland forces and no doubt the Ambulance Service on the Island can only improve with the proposed configuration giving access to best practice and training opportunities from other regions.

Whatever the outcome of this consultation, we hope that the residents of the Isle of Wight will be entitled to at least a similar level of health care as that offered to mainland residents of any new Strategic Health Authority.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Oulton', is centered on a light grey rectangular background.

Cllr Erica Oulton
Chairman, Policy Commission for Care, Health and Housing