

STEVE BAKER MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lin Hazell CC
Chairman, Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
Buckinghamshire County Council
County Hall
Walton Street
Aylesbury
HP20 1UA

2 July 2013

Dear Lin,

Congratulations on your re-election as a County Councillor and your re-appointment as Chairman of the crucial Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

As you know, acute healthcare is the foremost political issue in Wycombe and the surrounding area: it matters to people from every walk of life and background. In a representative democracy, it is right those voices are heard. The loss of services and beds over several years has been a constant source of anxiety, notwithstanding the reassurances of NHS managers. The result has been widespread public anger, disbelief, disillusion, cynicism and even despair.

Consequently, local health services have become a constant political football in a public debate which is divorced from reality. Too often commentators take a populist stance without either participating in decision-making or justifying their rhetoric. It is time for this conversation to change and I believe robust scrutiny by the Committee is essential to practical progress.

The public, as taxpayers and as patients, are entitled to demand and expect good quality local acute care. They are entitled to demand that we, as their elected representatives, faithfully represent their concerns and hold to account those who spend public money.

Therefore, I seek leave to appear before the Committee to ask what plans the Committee has for the scrutiny of local acute services and their interaction with care for the chronically ill.

I enclose a written submission which sets out in more detail my constituents' concerns, their context and a range of possible questions which the Committee might consider. I am convinced that Wycombe Hospital can have a positive future at the centre of local health provision, but that depends crucially on a change of direction and tone which I believe only your Committee can deliver.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Baker', with a horizontal line underneath.

Steve Baker MP

Tel: 0207 219 3547 • Fax: 020 7219 4614

Email: steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk • Website: www.stevebaker.info