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The Rt. Hon Sir Oliver Heald MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Oliver

Thank you for your question regarding an update on satellite radiotherapy and your offer of help.

As you know, the Trust remains committed to doing all it can to bring satellite radiotherapy to the Lister hospital site in Stevenage. The creation of a satellite radiotherapy unit in the “north of the catchment area” was one of the recommendations of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (MVCC) Strategic Review conducted in July 2019. It is important that the satellite radiotherapy analysis is conducted within the parameters of the whole programme, which is reviewing the future location of the services provided by Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, and ensuring that these are fit for purpose, now and in the future.

We are continuing to work alongside Specialised Commissioners on the Strategic Review. The Programme Board has recently conducted an analysis of activity and patient flows and this will feed into the discussions regarding location of a satellite radiotherapy unit.

As we assess the future provision of services, one of the barriers for development of the whole centre, including local radiotherapy, is access to capital, an issue we are currently working through.

We are also proud that, in conjunction with Paul Strickland Scanner Centre and InHealth, we have recently started a PET-CT scanning service at Lister hospital, offering diagnostic scans much closer to home for our patients, who would previously have had to travel to Mount Vernon. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to cancer service provision at Lister hospital.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Yours sincerely



Nick Carver
Chief Executive