



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Karin Smyth MP  
Minister of State for Health*

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Councillor Shaun Macdonald

By email to: [REDACTED]

30 January 2026

Dear Councillor Macdonald,

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 December about the Frimley Park Hospital rebuild.

I appreciate your concerns. Al Pinkerton MP shared similar concerns in November.

The replacement of the seven hospitals built wholly or predominantly with reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC), including Frimley Park Hospital, remains a priority for the Government, and we continue to push to get these schemes into construction.

However, it is imperative that these new hospitals meet the needs of staff and patients and serve their local communities. The recent independent report into the seven RAAC hospitals has confirmed that they are safe to remain open beyond 2030 as a result of the RAAC remediation work, but the need to deliver the replacement hospitals as soon as is feasibly possible remains.

Regarding the site selection process undertaken by Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust (FPFT), I can confirm that no decision has yet been made on the site of the new Frimley Park Hospital and all assessments will follow due process, ensuring any location meets the needs of patients and staff and achieves maximum value for taxpayers' money.

There are levels of commercial sensitivity around individual sites and the selection process, and I am unable to comment on this as it could negatively impact the ability of FPFT to achieve the best value for taxpayers' money. Since 2024, FPFT has been supported to develop its site selection process and this has been assured by the New Hospital Programme (NHP) Delivery Team in NHS England, as well as the NHP Health Delivery Partner. This support has included detailed work to reassess site selection to ensure impartiality, blind scoring of sites and amending of certain criteria to ensure a broad range of options have been assessed.

I am aware that FPFT has, with support of the NHP, developed a rigorous process for site selection, which it has assessed suggestions through previously. I am also aware that while it may progress its preferred way forward, the site selection process remains open to new options until any land is purchased.

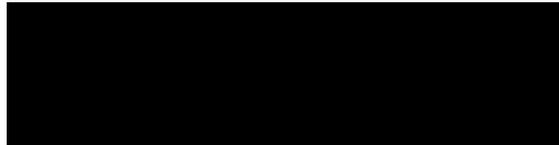
Furthermore, FPFT will be required to develop a business case both for any land that could be purchased, as well as for the main hospital scheme, which will require signoff by

the Department, with further assurance and scrutiny to ensure that plans are deliverable. Any site that is taken forward will require a full assessment on the deliverability and through this work any additional infrastructure requirements will be identified.

Any option that FPFT proceeds with will require engagement with local councils and residents through the planning process, which will include identifying concerns related to transport and access. I encourage you to engage with FPFT constructively on this to ensure that your concerns and views are factored into any plans taken forward.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**KARIN SMYTH**