

Creating an NHS fit for the future - public consultation

New Options Assessment Panel

Independent Chair: Prof. Stephen Field

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ADDENDUM TO FINAL REPORT

Dear Michael

I have now had an opportunity to review the latest options to emerge following the "Creating an NHS fit for the future" public consultation. I have designated the new option from the East Sussex Maternity Services Liaison Committee as "Option 12" and the new option from Keith Brent as "Option 13".

Option 12 is a two site option that also raises the possibility of building a new hospital in East Sussex. Option 13 is also a two site option.

The Maternity Services Liaison Committee option is presented as both a response to the PCTs' consultation and a new option in its own right. I understand it has been received after the formal end of the consultation period and beyond the extended deadline that you set for the Maternity Services Liaison Committee.

I am not competent to comment on the legal implications of accepting late responses but that issue notwithstanding I would recommend that since Option 12 is well presented and comes from a significant stakeholder group it should go forward for consideration in the option appraisal process. You will recall that my role is not to comment on the validity of this (or any other) option but simply to recommend whether it should go forward into the option appraisal process.

Keith Brent's proposal is a long (45 page) presentation and it is not entirely clear what precisely he is proposing. His paper is takes the form (in many places) of a simple series of brief bullet points. As with the MSLC option, I make no comment on the good sense or otherwise of Dr Brent's proposals. However, given Dr Brent's position as a consultant working for the local acute hospital I feel it would be appropriate to also put his proposal through to the option appraisal process.

I would be grateful if you could accept this letter as a formal addendum to my earlier final report and if you could draw the contents of this letter to the attention of your local Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Stephen Field
Chair, New Options Assessment Panel