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Your ref:

Date: 21 April 2011

Our ref: SR/ POC

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Dear Jane,

Care Quality Commission (CQC) – Alignment of CQC Teams with NHS Configurations

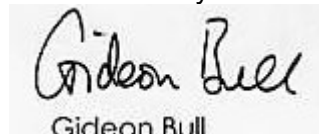
Thank you for coming along to the meeting of our Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 March. The Committee found your presentation very interesting and useful.

The Committee noted that the CQC inspection team that covers the borough is not aligned to fit local NHS commissioning configurations. Although the focus of the CQC is on NHS provider services, the Committee is of the view that alignment with the configuration of commissioning organisations, especially sector level bodies such as NHS North Central London, could facilitate better communication and sharing of information. This would help ensure that commissioners are made aware of relevant quality issues and therefore able to take them into account in their commissioning decisions.

The Committee also noted that the views of relatives and carers can be sought by inspectors if they are present during inspections. The Committee is glad that their views are taken into account but feels that a more proactive approach could be taken. This would enable relatives and carers to help inform the process so that inspections are better able to address any concerns that they may have.

The Committee has asked me to write to you to pass on their views on this issue. I would welcome any comments that you may have in response to this.

Yours sincerely



Gideon Bull

Chair – Overview and Scrutiny Committee

