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Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Ref: BS/KA/LI

23rd March 2015

Dear Jeremy,

Re: Problems at Princess Royal University Hospital

We write because it appears the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) at Farnborough is once again experiencing real operating problems when, to be honest, we thought matters were largely fixed last year. Indeed in September 2014 we were greatly re-assured on that matter by the fact that Kings College University Trust told the Health Scrutiny Committee of Bromley Council that everything was proceeding to plan. We assumed that to mean spending was under control and recruitment of nursing staff was on target. It is now clear that this is not the case. May we highlight two problems in particular?

Firstly, there remain major concerns in some clinical care areas which we understand the CQC are to investigate by sending in an amazing number of inspectors, as many as fifty, on 16-17th April 2015.

Secondly, at the same time Monitor is investigating the management of the PRUH as it seems the hospital's debts are mounting up once again at the rate of between £4-5 million a month. We gather that by the end of March 2015 the new total debt will be over £40 million. Considering that you yourself effectively wiped out the PRUH's previous debts in 2014 this seems to be an appalling failure.

It seems that Kings College University Trust may well have grossly underestimated the cultural and management changes required by the PRUH but



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regardless something seems to be going badly wrong. Could you please let us know your views on what has happened and how the Department of Health expects to fix this appalling situation?

Bob Stewart MP

Bob Neill MP

Cc:

Cllr Pauline Tunnicliffe (Chair, Bromley Council Health Scrutiny Committee)
Cllr Dr David Jefferys (Deputy Chair, Bromley Council Health Scrutiny Committee)