

My Ref:

17 August 2016

Mr Jan Sobieraj  
Chief Executive  
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Dear Jan

**Re: Temporary changes to the opening hours of Grantham A&E**

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board in connection with the Trust's decision to temporarily change the opening hours of Grantham A&E due to a reduction in the availability of emergency doctors in Lincolnshire.

Whilst the Board is fully aware of the pressures the Trust is facing and accepts the decision has been taken to ensure patient safety is maintained across Lincolnshire, I am concerned about the level of emergency provision in the south of the county, particularly the capacity of EMAS to respond to an increase in demand.

The Trust's statement, dated 11 August 2016, makes reference to the support being given by other health trusts in Lincolnshire, including EMAS. It states that '*We have put plans in place with East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS), the out of hours service and our emergency assessment unit, to maximise the number of patients who can still be treated at Grantham hospital after 6.30pm despite the change.*' In addition the frequently asked questions published on the your website state that you have consulted EMAS and that they can cope with the potential extra demands that may be placed on their services as you '*predict only three patients will need to be transferred by ambulance to alternative A&Es*'.

However, I am not yet convinced about the level of ambulance cover in the south of the county and whether there is adequate provision to meet any potential increase in demand. I am therefore seeking your assurance that a full assessment of ambulance service provision in the area was considered ahead of the decision being taken and that

robust plans are in place to cope with the predicted demand, ensuring that other patients who would ordinarily be using an emergency ambulance are not disadvantaged.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Woolley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

**Cllr Sue Woolley**  
**Chairman**  
**Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board**