

16 January 2014

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

By email

Dear Secretary of State

Trust special administration at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

As you know, Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust was the first foundation trust to be placed into administration when three Trust Special Administrators (TSAs) were appointed on 16 April 2013. The TSAs made their draft recommendations in a report provided to Monitor on 30 July 2013 and laid before Parliament and published on 31 July 2013.

The TSAs consulted on their draft recommendations between 6 August and 1 October 2013 and submitted their finalised recommendations in a report to Monitor on 17 December 2013. This report was laid before Parliament and published on 18 December 2013. Following receipt of the final report, Monitor is required to decide whether we are satisfied that the TSAs have made recommendations that meet the requirements of the legislation.

The TSAs have devised a plan which ensures the continued provision of the services currently provided by the Trust which local commissioners have said must continue to be provided at their current location. Monitor has satisfied itself that the TSAs' proposed future care model is financially robust, and has received assurances not only that the providers who will take over existing services are sustainable, but also that the impact of the acquisitions will be cost neutral for those providers. Further, independent medical and nursing panels have given advice and assurances that the proposed care model is clinically safe and sustainable. In taking its decision, the Monitor Board has properly placed significant weight both on this advice and the

assurance from the NHS Trust Development Authority that local providers who are taking over the services currently delivered by the Trust are themselves financially sustainable.

The Board of Monitor is therefore satisfied that the action recommended in the final report would achieve the objective of the trust special administration. Furthermore the Board of Monitor accepts that the TSAs have followed the requirements of the legislation in delivering their recommendations to Monitor and is satisfied that they have carried out their administration duties.

In taking this decision, the Board recognised that the TSAs needed to find a balance between maximising local access to services, ensuring that services are clinically safe, and delivering services within the funding available. In the current circumstances, we believe that the proposed model will achieve this balance through its mixture of networking arrangements where possible and consolidation of services where necessary. However, these recommendations are themselves emerging patterns of care and over time we expect local commissioners to work with local providers to seek even more effective ways of delivering services for their patients while maintaining the access and quality they require.

The Monitor Board also noted that we necessarily look to the NHS Trust Development Authority to ensure that there is appropriate management and clinical leadership at the two local providers taking over the services to ensure a successful and safe implementation of the recommendations. All this is, of course, subject to your decision, following the determination of Monitor's Board, on whether you are satisfied as to the matters reserved to you as set out in the legislation.

In light of the decision of the Monitor Board that it is satisfied that the TSAs' recommendations meet the requirements of the legislation, I am now sending you the final report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bennett', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Bennett

Chair and Chief Executive

