



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
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Your Ref: MG19901

PO-1384654

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
By email to: michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk

28 February 2022

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 January about Frimley Park Hospital. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The Government fully recognises the need to invest in improving health infrastructure across the country, including where trusts have identified significant issues. We have committed to build 40 new hospitals by 2030, backed by an initial £3.7billion. Together with eight existing schemes, this will mean 48 new hospitals by the end of the decade. This is the biggest hospital building programme in a generation.

On 15 July, the Government announced the selection process for eight more new hospitals, the next phase of implementation of its Health Infrastructure Plan. The proposal for trusts to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be one of the next eight closed on 9 September. As you are aware, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust has submitted an EOI in respect of Frimley Park Hospital. This is the first of a two-stage selection process. It will be followed by a more detailed process for schemes that are selected for the longlist, and this will be communicated in the early part of this year. The eight selected schemes will be announced later in the year.

We are committed to a balanced and robust selection process that supports our ambitions to Build Back Better. The analysis will take some time and, while the process is ongoing, we are unable to comment on individual submissions.

On the specific issue of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) materials, we have been supporting affected trusts, including Frimley Health, with dedicated funding to deal with these matters on their estates. A sum of £7.5million has already been earmarked to mitigate risks at Frimley Park Hospital. This is part of a £110million ring-fenced allocation in 2021/22 to address the most serious and immediate risks posed by RAAC.

In addition to this RAAC support, I am of course pleased to see that we have also been able to support your local area with other capital investment. Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust received over £1.8million from our £450million A&E upgrades scheme in 2020/21, to increase same-day emergency care capacity and increase emergency department capacity at Frimley Park. As part of our £600million Critical Infrastructure Risk

funding in 2020/21, the Trust received £2.8million to address maintenance backlogs across the estate.

Additionally, from the Elective Recovery Targeted Investment Fund announced in September, Frimley Health was awarded over £4million from the £330million estates fund, to help with various upgrades and estate refurbishments. This was on top of over £2.1million from the £250million digital fund to be spent on digital initiatives that aid elective recovery, efficiency and reconfiguration. Finally, an MRI machine was ordered as part of our plan to replace diagnostic machines more than ten years old.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid'.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP