

Ms Sharron Brown
Executive Officer
Middlesbrough Council

Planning Directorate
The James Cook University Hospital
Marton Road
Middlesbrough
TS4 3BW

Tel Direct 01642 835980
Fax 01642 854590

[By email]

16 November 2012

Dear Sharron,

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL FINAL REPORT –
DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE PATIENT UNITS**

Thank you for sending us the final report from the Health Scrutiny Panel on the Development of Private Patient Units. The Trust is grateful to the panel for the opportunity to discuss this issue and the balanced report that has been produced. We understand the sensitivity of this issue and the legitimate concerns it raises. We are committed, at director level, to be fully transparent in our intentions and to continue to work with the panel in the future.

The report included four recommendations which you asked us to respond to, and our responses are below:

- **Para 33.** The Trust has robust governance arrangements which meet the requirements of our regulator, Monitor, and we regularly review them to ensure they remain effective. Our Governors are involved in the Trust's planning process and are regularly briefed on our plans and intentions. They are also regularly briefed on the Trust's clinical and financial performance. If the Governors are concerned about any issue they are able to raise it and seek assurance on it from the Trust's directors and management. Given the current sensitivity about private patient units, the governors have been involved in developing our plans as part of our annual plan and they will continue to be involved as the private patients' project progresses.
- **Para 34.** There is no question that the same clinical governance standards apply to all clinical work undertaken by the Trust or by a subcontractor to the Trust, whether that activity is funded by the NHS or privately.
- **Para 35.** The Trust agrees an annual work plan with local health scrutiny committees and we would be happy for this to include further work on development of private patient units. We publish an Annual Report and Accounts which sets out our performance over the previous year and includes detailed financial accounts. As required by Monitor, we also publish an Annual Plan which

sets out our intentions for the forthcoming 3 year period. All of these are public documents available to the committee.

- **Para 36.** By law, private patients' activity must be profitable so we would never undertake private patients' activity at a loss. We have been very clear that we are an NHS organisation and we are only pursuing the development of private patient work to generate additional resources to support and improve our NHS services.

We look forward to continuing to work with the panel and to a further discussion on this subject in January.

Yours sincerely,



M F Graham
Deputy Director of Planning

Copies to [by email]:

STHFT

Jill Moulton, Director of Planning
Chris Newton, Director of Finance
Jeanette Holden, Senior Planning Manager
Catherine Reed, PAO Manager
Karen Miles, Private Patients Project Manager

Middlesbrough Council

Jon Ord, Scrutiny Support Officer