



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Mr Lance McCarthy
The Princess Alexandra Hospital
Hamstel Road
Harlow
Essex
CM20 1QX

19 March 2019

Dear Mr McCarthy,

I am writing to you following my recent discussions with the Domestic Team at the Princess Alexandra NHS Hospital in Harlow and Unison representatives, about the proposals to contract out cleaning services.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital cleaning team have raised a number of their concerns about the impact of outsourcing services. Firstly, there is the potential for a two-tier workforce to be created, as new employees may be offered different contractual terms of employment, including their hourly wages. This would lead to the difficult situation where employees carrying out the same duties would receive different remuneration.

Additionally, many are concerned about job security, as I have been informed that private companies may be able to alter or even terminate existing contracts in the event that their financial circumstances change.

As I understand it, a number of contractors are being considered by the Trust, including Mitie, G4S and OCS. However, I have been advised that under the management of Mitie, another hospital suffered from the over-chlorination of their operating theatre. Furthermore, the Princess Alexandra Hospital has tried and tested contracting out cleaning services before in 1995 with Mediguard, however terminated this arrangement after just one year.

It is a testament to the hard work of the NHS staff at the Princess Alexandra Hospital at every level that they have brought the hospital out of special measures, last year. Some of the Domestic Team have worked at the hospital for more than 40 years and they are all very much committed to the continuous improvement of services.

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RT. HON. ROBERT HALFON MP



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Although I understand that no decision has yet been made and market testing is currently being undertaken, I would urge you to reconsider contracting out services.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert Halfon'.

Robert Halfon MP

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WORKING HARD FOR HARLOW, HASTINGWOOD, MATCHING, NAZEING, ROYDON AND SHEERING