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Fred Hucker
Chairman Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust
Jubilee House
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19th October 2009

Dear Fred,

Re: Darzi Centre in Banbury

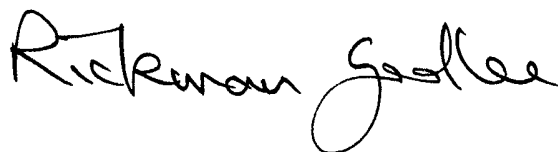
Oxfordshire Local Medical Committee urges the PCT to renegotiate the contract for the Darzi Centre in Banbury with a view to closing it down if possible. We do not believe that the PCT can justify continuing to spend money on such an additional and unwanted service during a recession when existing normal services are being cut. The money spent on the Darzi Centre in Banbury could more usefully be used on other Primary Care services or in supporting Secondary Care services.

The LMC has argued from the outset that Oxfordshire does not need a Darzi Centre. We ran a ballot in practices around the county in July 2008. 7103 patients signed the ballot to say they did not believe money should be spent on a setting up a Darzi Centre in Banbury. Only 255 patients believed it was a good use of public money.

The local health economy is now facing drastic cuts. There can be no justification, except political expediency, in continuing to spend money on a centre that neither Oxfordshire General Practitioners nor Oxfordshire patients want.

I urge the PCT Board to renegotiate the contract for the Darzi Centre in Banbury as soon as possible, so as to minimize cost

Yours sincerely,



Dr Rickman Godlee MA MBBS MRCP
Chairman Oxfordshire Local Medical Committee