



Dame Fiona Caldicott, Chairman, Board of Trustees
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Headley Way
Headington
Oxford OX3 9DU

13 December 2018

Dear Dame Caldicott,

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's policy in respect of the provision of caesarean section at maternal request

We write to draw your attention to a letter sent to Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, on our behalf from Bindmans LLP dated 27th July 2018. A copy of the letter is attached.

As our letter makes clear, we have concerns about the lawfulness of the Trust's approach to the provision of maternal request c-section and we believe amendments are needed to the Trust's policy to ensure compatibility with the NICE guidelines and human rights law.

Your Trust was given 14 days of the date of the letter, until 10th August 2018, to provide substantive responses to the questions contained therein. Follow up correspondence has been sent by both Bindmans LLP and the local MP, Anneliese Dodds. To date, no substantive response has been received.

As an NHS body that is accountable to the public we find the lack of response to a charity, acting on behalf of local women who have contacted us, a matter of grave concern. We would urge your board to hold your executive team to account over this delay.

Our correspondence with Dr Holthof was explicit in its aim to avoid litigation, but in the absence of any response, we have no choice but to continue to explore all legal options. We would like to reiterate that we would be happy to discuss, at

any time, how your policy and practice surrounding maternal request caesarean could be altered to meet the concerns raised by local women.

We would be grateful for a response by 3rd January, which we believe is a more than reasonable deadline to receive a response to our letter of the 27th July.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Prochaska', followed by a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Prochaska
Birthrights Chair

Cc Dr Bruno Holthof
Anneliese Dodds MP
Rosalind Pearce, Healthwatch Oxfordshire
David Smith, Oxfordshire CCG