



Dr Al Pinkerton MP
Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Lucy Powell MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department of Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

27 July 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing following your recent appointment as Secretary of State for Education to request an urgent meeting regarding the proposed location for the rebuild of Frimley Park Hospital under Wave 1 of the New Hospital Programme.

On 16 June, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust announced that its preferred location for the new hospital would be the Frimley Fuel Allotments site. While I fully support the delivery of a new hospital for the area, I am increasingly concerned by the potential impact of this proposed location on local schools and the thousands of children who attend them.

The site is immediately surrounded by six schools, attended by more than 3,000 children. In recognition of the wider implications for education across Surrey Heath, 20 headteachers and chief executives of school trusts recently issued a joint statement setting out their opposition to the proposed location.

Their concerns centre on four key issues:

1. **Road network capacity.** Whether the existing road network can safely accommodate the demands of a major regional acute hospital. Local roads already experience significant congestion during school drop-off and collection times, and there are serious concerns about the impact of additional hospital traffic on both safety and accessibility.
2. **Child safety.** The roads surrounding the proposed site are key routes used by pupils travelling to and from school. School leaders are concerned that increased traffic, construction activity and HGV movements could create unacceptable risks both during the construction phase and once the hospital is operational
3. **Wider impact on education.** Increased congestion and longer journey times could affect attendance, punctuality and staffing, creating additional challenges for schools and families across the area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance
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4. **Engagement.** School leaders have raised concerns about the extent to which schools were engaged in the site selection process, arguing that consultation should help shape decisions rather than follow them.

These concerns have been raised collectively by school leaders responsible for the education and wellbeing of thousands of children. Given the Department for Education's responsibility to ensure that children's interests are properly considered in major infrastructure decisions, I believe they warrant urgent attention.

Please note the full statement along with a map of the Frimley Fuel Allotment site is attached.

I would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these concerns and explore how the Department can engage with Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust and other partners to ensure that the impact on schools, pupils and families is fully considered before any final decisions are taken.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Al Pinkerton MP
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