



Department of Health and Social Security  
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Ms P Phillips  
East Hertfordshire CHC  
Baldock House  
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Ware  
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Your refere.

Our reference TWD/F/1

Date 19 August 1983

Dear Ms Phillips

We have received a number of queries following my letter of 11 August and it would appear that some misunderstanding has arisen. As requested my letter sets out the statutory position.

However CHCs and health authorities should bear in mind that Ministers take the view that when a health authority proposes to close or change the use of a health building, the authority should consult those CHCs from whose districts there is an established - and substantial - flow of patients to the health building in question. Furthermore if two or more CHCs are consulted, the weight given to agreement or objection from particular CHCs should be related to the extent to which patients from 'their' district make use of the health building in question. Where a CHC which has a substantial interest considers that it should be consulted and makes representations, it is open to Ministers to insist that the closure be referred to the RHA and subsequently to the Secretary of State for a decision.

A copy of this letter goes to West Essex and Enfield Health Authorities and North East and North West Thames RHAs.

Yours sincerely

R C Livermore  
Regional Liaison Division