



The Rt Hon Sir MIKE PENNING MP

Member of Parliament for Hemel Hempstead

Constituency Office

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Please quote our reference in all correspondence: MP72820 / Allen

Ms Helen Brown
Deputy Chief Executive
West Hertfordshire Hospitals Trust
Watford General Hospital
Vicarage Road
Watford
Herts WD18 0HB

2 December 2021

Dear *Ms Brown*

I am writing to ask you to retract a misleading statement in the recent edition of Blueprint and in Press statements, in which you stated that I had called on the Prime Minister to back a new hospital in Hemel Hempstead.

That is NOT what I did at all.

During Prime Minister's Questions I called for the Prime Minister to back a new hospital for the people of Hemel Hempstead, and most certainly not for the new hospital to be in Hemel Hempstead.

I have, for a long time now, supported a new hospital on a new site to serve the people of Watford, Hemel Hempstead, St Albans and other parts of West Hertfordshire equally. I have no view as to where this hospital should be located, although it should obviously be easily accessible to people from all of the areas, so presumably somewhere in the triangle formed by these three places.

You state that we share a common view. We do NOT.

I am extremely angry that you have deliberately mis-quoted me in order to try to create divisions between the people of Watford and the people of Hemel Hempstead.

I have been contacted by a number of residents who are angry that I appear now to be supporting your ridiculous scheme to rebuild Watford General Hospital on its existing site. In acting in this way, the Trust has made an unhelpful and unnecessary contribution to this important debate.

Please now retract this statement and offer a public apology.

Regards

Mike Penning

Ps As your comments are in the public domain I intend to make this letter and your reply public

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