



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From Karin Smyth MP  
Minister of State for Health

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Your Ref: JL28999

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Julia Lopez MP

By email to: [julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk)

24 September 2024

Dear Julia,

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 July about funding For Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital NHS Trust (BHRUT). I apologise for the delay in replying.

I appreciate your concerns.

I can assure you that this Government is committed to fixing our NHS and ensuring it is fit for the future. Strategic, value for money investments in capital projects are critical to achieving these goals, however, I should clarify that the Department is current reviewing capital requirements in line with the Government's missions, and as part of our internal spending review preparations. Therefore, I hope you understand that I cannot commit to any specific scheme before NHS funding is secured. Once we have clarity on our future budget, the Department will inform trusts of our investment programmes, and their criteria, through the usual channels.

I am grateful to you for enclosing the letter from Matthew Trainer, Chief Executive of BHRUT, and I was pleased to read about the success of the trust in improving cancer performance.

Regarding scanners, as mentioned in the election manifesto, we are working on introducing a new 'Fit For the Future' fund to double the number of CT and MRI scanners, allowing the NHS to catch cancer and other conditions earlier, saving lives. The scope, amount and criteria of funding is still subject to confirmation at the next spending review, but potentially, this programme could directly cover PET scanners, or free up operational capital so that trusts can reallocate it as appropriate.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**KARIN SMYTH**