



**Rt Hon Dame Joan Ruddock**  
**Labour MP for Lewisham Deptford**

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



Mr Matthew Kershaw  
Trust Special Administrator  
South London Healthcare Trust

By email to: [matthewkershaw@nhs.net](mailto:matthewkershaw@nhs.net)

13 December 2012

Dear Mr Kershaw,

**Securing Sustainable NHS Services – TSA Draft Report**

I am enclosing a response to your consultation. It is based on my own analysis of your proposals both as an MP and a local user of hospital services and on the responses that I have received from many constituents.

I have concentrated my response on your proposals for Lewisham hospital for which I have some responsibility as the MP for Lewisham Deptford. However, I appreciate that the financial problems of SLHT must be addressed and am not opposed in principle to trying to achieve the better services with lower overheads that might result from a merger of Queen Elizabeth and University Hospital Lewisham. But such a reorganisation should be addressed in line with the government's policies on reconfiguration and must meet its four tests.

The Trust Special Administrator powers should not be used to attempt reconfiguration by the back door.

Yours sincerely

**Rt Hon Dame Joan Ruddock MP**