



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Right Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU


30 May 2023

Dear Steve,

We are replying to your letter regarding the 'New Hospital Programme' in regard to the comments it makes about Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. As you are aware, your Statement in the House of Commons on 25 May was unremitting bad news for Imperial, which makes the tone of your letter and the campaign pack from DHSC perplexing to say the least.

We found your statements regarding Imperial erratic and therefore, given the utmost importance this issue has for our constituents, would ask for prompt answers to the following questions:

- You say that not all work on the Imperial schemes will be completed by 2030. In fact there is no timescale for any of these works in your announcement. When do you expect the schemes at Hammersmith, Charing Cross and St Mary's to complete?
- You say there will be £20 billion spent on the Programme. Given this is less than two thirds of the estimated cost, how much if any of this will fund Imperial schemes, and from where and when will the balance of the cost of these schemes be available?
- On Charing Cross, you said in response to Karen's question 'we are starting to build the temporary ward capacity'. To what does this refer? Imperial have no knowledge of or facilities to undertake this work.
- Similarly, on Hammersmith you said 'the first phase of work is under way on the cardiac elective recovery hub'. Again, this is news to Imperial. What is your source for this claim?
- On St Mary's you revealed 'we have already put in some initial funding to explore the new site with Transport for London and Network Rail'. While this may be correct, our understanding was that this was confidential information, and we ask what authority you had for making it public?



Imperial has gone through a long period of uncertainty, not least the eight years when Charing Cross was marked for demolition by your government, with the knock on effects on the other hospitals in the Trust. We hoped the NHP provided a way forward for these world class institutions, which currently carry the biggest maintenance backlog of any hospitals in England. I hope you are able to answer our questions and avoid adding new worries to Imperial, its staff and patients.

Yours sincerely

Andy Slaughter  
MP for Hammersmith

Karen Buck  
MP for Westminster North