

Dear Doctor,

Thank you for the response that you have sent me regarding BSBV.

I am afraid that the person who has drafted this standard response on your behalf is probably not aware of your involvement in the BSBV process, and so I would appreciate it if you would respond personally before I circulate your reply to your patients. I would not want anyone to think that someone held in such public high esteem as a doctor would deliberately mislead anyone in order to avoid responsibility for a decision they had made, and so I would like to give you time to correct your statement.

As you know, the minutes of the meeting of the Group Practice Leads of 14 May states very clearly "Members agreed to go to consultation and it was agreed that a Q&A sheet would be circulated to practices to assist in answering patient queries... It was also agreed, to compare quality measures, a table would be circulated detailing current quality provisions and the standards which would be achieved with the options presented." The Chief Executive of the CCG has informed me that "all members agreed" and that your Practice was present.

This shows that it is not true to say that no decisions have been made. The Group Leads made a decision to go to consultation.

In addition, the person who has drafted your response has suggested that the CCG is the organisation that represents local GPs. However, as you are aware when the Health and Social Care Bill went through Parliament it was made explicitly clear that CCGs are not representative bodies but organisations run by GPs.

Clearly, you are not a passive bystander that has simply watched while a 'representative' takes decisions on your behalf. You are an active participant in the CCG, and I have been informed that you have actively made decisions affecting my constituents.

As individual GPs are so important in the decisions affecting St Helier, my constituents are increasingly seeking to find out their GPs' individual views on the future of this hospital, in order that they can make informed choices about their health. I would therefore like to repeat my request to meet with you personally so that my constituents and your patients can learn more about your Practice's approach on the issue of the future of St Helier.

In the mean time, if you stand by your assertion that the Group Leads have made no decisions at all or that your Practice did not participate in them, please let me know, and I will ensure that the records of your meetings are altered.

I look forward to hearing from you.

My best wishes,  
Siobhain McDonagh MP