



39 Victoria Street London SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

Your Ref: JB/CPJ

PO-1144489

Mr Jan Britton
Chief Executive
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Sandwell Council House
PO Box 2374
Oldbury B69 3DE



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Thank you for your letter of 26 July about Midland Metropolitan Hospital.

I appreciate the Council's concerns and am grateful to you for taking the time to share them with me.

As you will now be aware, on 16 August the Government announced that it will fund the completion of the Midland Metropolitan Hospital. This demonstrates that not only are we giving patients, their families and our NHS staff in Sandwell and West Birmingham world-class NHS facilities on their doorstep, we are also showing our determination to build an NHS fit for the future.

Our long-term plan for the NHS will see it receive £20.5billion a year more than it currently does by 2023, and this important partnership shows that our commitment to the NHS does not stop there.

I hope this reply is helpful.