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South Devon and Torbay CCG: **Beds Crisis Avoidable deaths and suffering** 13-01-17

Dear Dr Nick Roberts and fellow doctors,

Whilst Mrs May and Mr Hunt 'see no signal', the crisis of care in our NHS arising from insufficient accommodation, in particular, has never been greater.

From a friend in the north. *My friend's 80 year old aunt had a fall whilst the carer was in the house- ambulance phoned at 5pm-**finally arrived at 12.15am**. Pneumonia had set in by the time she was brought to hospital as she had been lying on the floor in agony for hours-hip broken-cant operate- **now receiving end of life care**.* We can imagine her physical and mental distress and know there have been many similar cases. We guess the gross delay in the ambulance getting to her was due to the backing up at the A&E from lack of Community Hospital beds (largely) into which patients could be discharged safely and promptly from the DGH.

I bumped into erstwhile consultant colleagues in Torbay Hospital when visiting a friend. 'Beds' dominated and frustration was obvious. Could they not speak up? 'Everyone stays silent through fear.' So the 'consultation' hardly includes the hospital staff.

You might not have had time to listen to World at One 10-01-17 Dr Fay Kirkland and Professor Sir Brian Jarman <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b087pf0q#play> 07.10 to 14.50. Both are concise, factual and shocking. Dr Kirkland is a GP who has been appointed by the BBC to delve into present NHS problems. You will know Professor Jarman was a GP. Beds numbers were halved in 30 years. We know.

If you did not see 'Hospital' last night from St Mary's you must. The waste of time, spirit, talent and physical resources was shocking though known. Hamstrung as I have said before. The distress of the patients admitted for major surgery was stoically concealed apart from some tears - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b088rp75/hospital-episode-1> Stark and shameful for the UK

SD&T CCG Constitution > NHS Constitution Appendix 3. "The NHS aspires to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism - **in the provision of high quality care that is safe, effective** And the lady up north?

Dr Wollaston's Newsletter (att) The financial pressures were set out in the consultation document, with the CCG facing a gap of £142m by 2020/21 if no action is taken. This will not however be **primarily addressed by the proposals** which will save only £1.4m as savings are reinvested in alternatives designed to help cope with rising demand for health and care services and provide care closer to home for more people.

None of my views are contained in the HW Torbay summary. A few are included above.

yours sincerely David Halpin