

**Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign**

9 May 2013

Dear Malcolm Alexander

Thank you for agreeing to provide a witness statement and also agreeing to attend as a witness for a one-day community commission of enquiry run by the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign on Saturday 29 June 2013 at Catford Broadway Theatre.

Michael Mansfield QC has agreed to chair the Commission with the assistance and support of a number of barristers from his Tooks Chambers.

The thrust of the inquiry will be to look at current developments in the NHS and how they are impacting on the government's decision to downgrade services at Lewisham Hospital, leading to the certain closure of a much-praised, very busy district general hospital that is well performing both clinically and financially.

**What we hope to achieve**

We hope that the Commission, whether the judicial review is successful or not, will provide, through hearing a range of witnesses – verbal, written and on video – a true account of developments in Lewisham over the last several months in the context of what is taking place in the NHS more widely. The evidence will be finalised in a report, published online and also in paper form, which will be available for the people of Lewisham and beyond. We intend to utilise the report to bring further pressure on this government and the next to ensure that health services provided for the people of Lewisham and South East London meet the required standards.

There are a number of avenues for you to contribute before or on the day, but we hope the following may be helpful:

We attach a draft template to aid you in considering what you may want to say. Please don't feel restricted or constrained by these draft questions. It is there to give you an idea of the issues that may arise, which may be relevant to your experience.

We have booked two days with the barristers from Tooks – **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May** – at the Waldron Health Centre, Amersham Vale (off New Cross Rd), opposite New Cross Station – from 10am-4pm. If you were available on either of these Sundays, you could bring your filled in template with you and one of the barristers would go through your statement with you. This would ensure you were happy with the statement and the process.

**Please could you let us know what time would be most convenient for you between 10am and 3pm (to finish by 4pm).**

We are also hoping to video or audio (depending on preference) the witnesses on these Sundays after you have finalised your statement with the barrister. If you are

## Lewisham People's Commission of Inquiry

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unable to attend, please send us your statement and phone number. We would then contact you to finalise arrangements.

On the day of the Commission, some witnesses will give their testimony live. Others may have their videoed interview shown and this would be part of the audio-visual evidence. The statements of others will be read by the panel as an important part of the evidence available.

Please reply by email to:

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Olivia O'Sullivan

**The venue of the Lewisham People's Commission is:**

Broadway Theatre Catford, London SE6 4RU

**Transport**

5 minutes walk from Catford and Catford Bridge Stations

**Catford Bridge Station** Trains to and from London Bridge, Waterloo and Charing Cross via Lewisham

**Catford Station:** Capital Connect Trains travel to and from Blackfriars (change for St Pancras)