



The Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria St
London
SW1H 0EU

14 May 2024

Dear Victoria,

Re: New Accident and Emergency services for the Solihull borough

I am writing to you about the need for a new Accident and Emergency (A&E) department in my constituency. You will be aware that I have campaigned tirelessly for better health services for my constituents. After the Covid-19 pandemic, it became clear that more had to be done to meet the growing needs of my constituents. I have been pleased that the Department of Health and the Integrated Care Board have responded with greater health resources for the Solihull borough including a new permanent Urgent Treatment Centre at Solihull Hospital, along with new state-of-the-art surgical units to be built shortly. I also welcome the new Locality Hub at Solihull Hospital and I am delighted to have secured a new Community Diagnostic Centre in Chelmsley Wood.

However, Solihull Hospital is integral to healthcare in the Solihull borough and it is clear that an A&E department is required to better serve the needs of my constituents. Many of my constituents requiring A&E services are diverted to Heartlands Hospital in Bordesley Green. The journey from Solihull to Bordesley Green can take over an hour, making travel to an A&E department increasingly difficult for residents who do not have access to a car or those with mobility requirements. As you can imagine this causes great anxiety to my constituents.

With a population of over 216,000, there is no reason for residents in the Solihull borough to be sent to other areas to access A&E services. With new housing planned for the borough this will become even more necessary as our population increases. Over 40% of residents are over 50 years old and with an ageing population, we must ensure more convenient access to healthcare. For this reason, I am now launching a campaign, "**A&E for Solihull**" to implement A&E services in the Solihull borough. I am confident that my campaign will garner significant local support as I know the strength of feeling on this issue. I am also aware that the Leader of Solihull Council has also expressed a need for more resources in our health system to better serve the needs of our borough.

I would be most grateful for a meeting with you and your officials to discuss the next steps for my campaign. I believe that the Department for Health and Social Care should carry out an assessment in conjunction with the NHS Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board to consider how best to deliver A&E health services to the Solihull borough.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Saqib Bhatti MBE MP