



**Sir Gary Streeter MP**

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA  
[www.garystreeter.co.uk](http://www.garystreeter.co.uk)

The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department for Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Our ref: SWD4576

20 April 2020

*Dear Matt,*

**Testing Care Home staff and residents and location of testing hubs**

We are witnessing an improved supply chain for PPE in Care Homes across the county which is promising and are confident that as central logistics are boosted, this will improve further.

However, given the high numbers of Care Homes and residents across Devon due to our demographic profile, we are concerned at the current plans for testing in Care Homes. We believe to protect Care Home residents and staff from the spread of Covid-19 in close quarters, all staff and residents should be tested, regardless of whether symptoms are showing in the home.

We also have an issue with the location of testing hubs in the county. Currently any member of staff from a Care Home in Central or North Devon has to travel for up to two hours to reach the testing hub in Plymouth. This is not workable for the many staff located in our coastal communities in the north of the county. We are asking that a Mid Devon hub be set up as a minimum, and preferably others set up in local hospitals whilst cases in the county are low. We do not believe we should be expecting staff to travel across the county for testing.

**Dental Access**

We are concerned at the plans for dental access across Devon. As part of the plans for urgent dental care services across the South West, just two facilities are confirmed in South Devon with a third to be confirmed. None is in Central or North Devon. Furthermore, the roll out of plans has been not been clearly communicated and this has resulted in many patients who have been in pain for several weeks, being told by

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their dentist that they don't know anything of the plans. We believe this challenge comes as a result of the low proportion of NHS practices across Devon, as well as the general undersupply of dental services across the whole south west.

We consider one way to solve this challenge would be to enable dentists to reopen and provide services to their own patients rather than directing everyone with an emergency need to the same few hubs across the south of Devon. Whatever solution, we would ask that communications regarding dental provision is much clearer going forward.

We realise you are dealing with feedback and suggestions from all angles at this time but hope that this feedback on specific service provisions in Devon will enable workable changes to be implemented as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Jupp', written in a cursive style.

CC: Kevin Foster MP, Rt Hon Geoffrey Cox MP, Neil Parish MP, Selaine Saxby MP, Simon Jupp MP, Anthony Mangnall MP, Anne-Marie Morris MP.