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Dear Colleague

Plans for new South Bristol Community Hospital approved by Department of Health

I am delighted to be able to confirm that final approval for the development of South Bristol Community Hospital has now been granted by the Department of Health.

With the successful completion of this, the final stage in the approval process, the project can now proceed to contract signing and financial close, which is planned for February 2010.

Construction of the hospital will commence within a few weeks of financial close and is scheduled to take 24 months. We expect to welcome the first patients in early 2012.

As you will be aware the development of a state of the art health facility in south Bristol is a significant component of our strategy to transform the way we can provide health care for our population.

The new hospital will provide people in south Bristol with local access to a range of services including: diagnostic tests; walk-in care for minor illness and injury; booked appointments with hospital consultants and other specialists; an '8am to 8pm' GP service; a day surgery treatment centre and an integrated community rehabilitation service with inpatient beds.

Our partners at Bristol City Council have already delivered the infrastructure in the form of substantial new roads and services at Hengrove Park. Together with the new skills academy already being built by City of Bristol College and the Bristol City Council's own plans for major new sport & leisure centre, the new hospital will be the centrepiece of a wider plan for regeneration for this part of Bristol.

The development of this project has been a lengthy process to date and I am grateful for the ongoing support and interest from you and all of our partners and friends that has helped us to overcome the obstacles and challenges we have faced along the way.

If you need this letter in a different format, please telephone the number under the address

Chief Executive: Deborah Evans
Chair: Richard Weatherhead

PEC Chair: Will Warin
www.bristol.nhs.uk



Local people have campaigned tirelessly for this facility and as we enter this final stage of the commercial process I believe we can all look ahead with renewed vigour at the ways in which this super new facility can be a platform for better healthcare and better health for local people in south Bristol.

I look forward to confirming contract signing and financial close early in 2010 and will contact you again with news of this.

In the meantime if you require any further details about the hospital or the services it will provide please do not hesitate to contact me. Alternatively my colleague Ben Bennett will be able to help you with any detailed questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Weatherhead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Richard Weatherhead

Chair

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