



THE DOCTORS
LABORATORY

Jenny Rowlands
Chief Executive
London Borough of Camden
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Dear Jenny,

I am writing to explain the context of discussions that are shortly to take place with your planning and environmental officers in relation to critical construction and logistics activities that are underway or proposed at the Halo building 1 Mabledon Place which is occupied by The Doctors Laboratory (TDL) and its NHS joint venture partner, Health Services Laboratories (HSL). Those discussions relate to a revision to our Delivery Service Management Plan (DSMP) for our pathology services, which is now out of date having been agreed in 2015, and permission for flexible construction working hours to provide for a new Covid 19 testing lab at level 9 of the building.

The Discipline of Pathology

Pathology is a medical specialty that determines the cause and nature of diseases by examining and testing body tissues (from biopsies and PAP smears, for example) and blood samples. It is the bridge between science and medicine. It underpins every aspect of patient care, from diagnostic testing and treatment advice to using cutting-edge genetic technologies and preventing disease.

Pathology tests are vital in the care of patients from new-borns through to the elderly with up to 70% of all diagnoses depending on Pathology and 100% of cancer diagnoses. Pathology is pivotal for patients to get the services they need where and when they need them. Pathology supports delivery of key NHS targets and commitments, particularly around cancer, coronary heart disease, access, waiting times and Accident and Emergency departments.

The Doctor's Laboratory

TDL operates pathology services throughout the UK, its hub laboratory and offices are located within the Halo building at the heart of Med City. TDL's doctors and scientists are experts in illness and disease and use their expertise to support every aspect of healthcare, from GPs and hospitals to care homes. The reports on TDL samples guide doctors on the right way to treat both common and unusual diseases, as well as using cutting-edge genetic technologies to treat patients with life-threatening conditions and advise their families. TDL is a leader in the industry and a major supplier of pathology services to the NHS in North London which is so important to the nation at this time.

Within the Borough of Camden alone, TDL provides a pathology service to over 850 clinics, hospitals and businesses. These include major medical facilities such as University College London Hospital and its associated community of GP surgeries through Camden Clinical Commissioning Group, Moorfield's Eye Hospital Clinic and the world-renowned medical hubs of Harley & Wimpole streets. TDL also provides services to the Camden Integrated Primary Care Service and performs community sexual health testing for Camden.

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National Covid19 Testing Capacity

The importance of pathology and the critical work undertaken by TDL's doctors and scientists has been highlighted throughout the Covid19 pandemic. TDL staff have worked tirelessly testing patient samples from the NHS, private hospitals, care homes and staff working in companies conducting essential work.

To increase capacity for Covid19 testing in London the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) have requested that Health Services Laboratories build a dedicated Covid19 testing facility. Health Services Laboratories will convert one of the office floors in the Halo into a purpose built Covid19 testing facility that will link in with DHSC's national programme of community testing. The refurbishment timeline has been expedited such that testing can begin prior to the peak winter season which is a critical time for the NHS. This will necessitate an application for flexible construction hours for a period of three months. The works will largely be internal but inevitably there will be external activities such as deliveries and plant installation.

Logistics

Logistics is a critical step in the patient pathways as all samples must be transported to the laboratory for testing. Patients do not only get sick during office hours, many of the samples have limited stability and often test results are required urgently for critical patient care decisions and so 24/7 delivery access is essential. The 24/7 nature of pathology logistics has been made increasingly critical in the wake of the NHS ambition for the provision of 7 day services. By 2020 the NHS planned to achieve the following 3 aims;

- Routine general practice; access to GP appointments in the evenings and at weekends,
- Urgent care; access to healthcare advice 24/7 via NHS111
- Quality hospital care that will provide 10% of the population with access to the same level of consultant assessment and review, diagnostic tests and consultant-led interventions every day of the week by 2020.

Seven-day services and recent Covid 19 testing have had a direct impact on the timing and frequency of deliveries and the management of the laboratory logistics. The level 9 Covid testing laboratory will also increase deliveries further and so it is appropriate to update our DSMP which was originally agreed under a planning obligation in 2015. In doing so we are mindful of the potential impacts on local residents from our deliveries. We are aware of issues raised by our neighbours and we are about to hold discussions with your planning team and residents in Flaxman Terrace to inform the revised DSMP and to mitigate impacts as far as practicable. To this end we have instructed Arup and our planning consultants DWD to coordinate discussion and submissions to the Council.

You will appreciate the critical the work of our staff is to healthcare nationally and for the local primary and secondary care services as well as residents of Camden. The Council's forbearance is respectfully sought. Should you, or any of your officers, require further briefing on any aspect of our services and plans please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Dr Rachael Liebmann BSc Hons MB BCh BAO FRCPath FAcadMed SFFMLM

Group Medical Director