



## Northern Devon Healthcare

NHS Trust

North Devon District Hospital  
Raleigh Park  
Barnstaple, Devon  
EX31 4JB

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Dear Members of Great Torrington Town Council,

I'm sorry that we have not been able to meet as planned to discuss the next stage of the acute services review and explain the process whereby we will be gathering feedback from local people to inform the development of any proposals for change.

I understand that you have been put under pressure to hold the meeting in public and so the meeting has had to be rescheduled. I recognise that this has put councils such as yourselves in a difficult situation and completely understand the need for you to appear transparent to your communities. I would like to make it clear that we are more than happy to meet with you in public if this is easier. I can assure you that there is absolutely nothing in the content of the meetings that is secret and we have posted the presentation on our website for clarity.

We wanted to talk to you, as elected members representing your towns, in advance of the public meetings so you would be better informed and could share the information with the communities whom you represent. We know that not everyone will be able to attend the public meetings and some of our more vulnerable citizens do not have access to online information. Local councillors are therefore an important communication channel for us and we wanted you to be well-informed about the Acute Services Review process.

We simply wanted to brief councils before the public, as important stakeholders, and also give you the opportunity to ask questions outside of a public meeting. We also wanted to meet with you before the public meetings took place so that we could help set expectations about these public meetings – e.g. that there are no proposals for change on the table yet. Whilst we are still happy to look at other dates to meet with you, it is unlikely that we will now be able to schedule these before the public meetings.

We have held one meeting with Lynton/Lynmouth council so far and they welcomed the opportunity to consider how they could ensure their local residents' voices could be represented in this pan-Devon engagement. The Clerk of Lynton/Lynmouth would be more than happy for you to call him if you would like more information on how that meeting was conducted.

As the content for the stakeholder meetings is almost identical to the public meetings, I will leave it up to you to decide if you still think it is worth going ahead. Alternatively, if you would like to be briefed in a different way, for example by telephone, please let me know.

I know that there is a great appetite for public meetings, so if you are asked about this, please can you point your communities in the direction of the 12 public meetings being held across Devon, three of which are in Northern Devon.

See: <http://www.devonstp.org.uk/get-involved/upcoming-events/> and the list of local events below.

I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Alison Diamond**  
**Chief Executive**

Tuesday 7 March	14:30 - 16:30	Lantern Centre - The Great Hall, 49 High Street, Ilfracombe, EX34 9QB
Wednesday 8 March	18:00 - 20:00	Stucley Dining Hall, Bideford College, Abbotsham Road, Bideford, EX39 3AR
Friday 17 March	11:30 - 13:30	Stanbury Hall, Petroc, North Devon Campus, Old Sticklepath Hill, Barnstaple, EX31 2BQ