



## Emma Lewell-Buck MP

Member of Parliament for South Shields  
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Councillor Norma Wright  
Co-Chair of South Tyneside and Sunderland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee  
Sunderland City Council  
Civic Centre  
Burdon Road  
Sunderland

26th July 2017

Dear Councillor Wright,

Thank you for the letter from yourself and Councillor Dix, dated 21<sup>st</sup> July, in response to my request for the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to refer the Path to Excellence Service Review to the Secretary of State for Health.

I would like to ask you please to clarify the point you make on the Committee only being able to make that referral "after the consultation has been complete and the decisions on service changes have been made."

I ask for this clarification as my understanding of the guidance and legislation is that a referral to the Secretary of State can be made at any point in time, provided that the referral meets the prescribed criteria.

I understand that the Committee is currently in dialogue with the parties involved, but it would seem that the position on not referring to the Secretary of State at this stage is a choice rather than the Committee being prohibited from doing so?

Yours sincerely

**Emma Lewell-Buck MP**  
**Member of Parliament for South Shields**  
**Shadow Minister for Children and Families**

Cc: Cllr Rob Dix, Co-Chair of South Tyneside and Sunderland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

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