



Stop sell-off of our PET scanners!

PET (positron emission tomography) scanners are used in cancer care in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Churchill in Oxford. This location is convenient for patients, consultants, and nurses. Trained and qualified staff operate the scanners, which are a key part of the 'patient journey' for certain forms and stages of cancers. The scanners are part of the hospital equipment at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH).

NHS England has decided that our PET scanner services – NHS ones – should be put out to tender. Even though the Churchill ones are working perfectly well. They have put all PET scanner services out to tender across the South East, whether they were working or not. This meant that OUH had to put in a bid to run its own scanners. Which they did, explaining how the existing budget is needed for the service to function.

They lost the contract. InHealth, a private, for-profit company undercut the OUH and the NHSE commissioners awarded InHealth the contract.

Unless we show this would have a bad impact on the services and the patients, and would risk poorer outcomes, the change will go ahead. The scanners may well be moved onto a private site – this is still to be arranged – and will be operated by less trained staff, as we understand the situation.

This can't be right! We should support our NHS Trusts to stand up to this, and keep the PET scanner service in the Churchill, run by the Department of Nuclear Medicine.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- *Write to your county councillor* (this should have come to the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and it hasn't – so urge them to halt the process until it has been scrutinised).
- *Send a post card* to Dame Fiona Caldicott, chair of Oxford University Hospitals Council of Governors, and of its board of directors, or email her here: governors@ouh.nhs.uk
- *Send an email* to Dr Kiren Collison, chair of the Oxon Clinical Commissioning Group here: k.collison@nhs.net and the chief executive, Lou Patten at oxon.gpc@nhs.net

They need to know that you are outraged at this privatisation of a fully functioning service, and are concerned about the impact this will have on patients, the patient's cancer care journey, the quality of care, and the staff who rely on timely access to highly trained staff who run the service.

P&P Oxon Keep Our NHS Public: <https://keepournhspublicoxfordshire.org>

