

RS/PM/10032501

Primary Care Trust

25th March 2010Bartholomew House
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Dear Mr Singh

**Provision of GP services within the Heart of Birmingham**

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 2010. Can I apologize for the delay in responding which was largely due to annual leave commitments. Can I firstly assure you that the Heart of Birmingham is committed to improving primary care services in both the range, location and choice of services offered. A key feature of this programme has been extending the hours of service to include evenings and weekends.

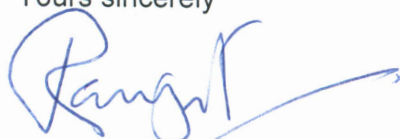
We have opened 3 new GP practices over the last 12 months. One in Greet, which was opened last March; one in Summerfield Health Centre on Winson Green Road, which was opened earlier this month and one on Finch Road in Aston which opened last week. The first two mentioned incorporate a full walk-in service running from 8am until 8pm, 7 days a week. Patients can walk-in and receive services and they are also able to register with the practices. The third newly procured GP service at Finch Road is a GP practice where patients can register and incorporates 15 hours of extended services including 3 late evenings and weekend opening. The current patient registration numbers for Greet, which has been open for 12 months, are relatively modest and there is capacity for an additional 5000 registrations within the contract as it was procured. The two more recent new practices should have the ability to deliver a full range of services to 6000 registered patients when they reach their full capacity. More capacity will come on line to match registrations.

In addition to the above the PCT has allocated over £1m to purchase extended hours from GP practices across the PCT. To date we have over 70% of all practices offering extended hours (usually one evening per week until 8pm but occasional weekend opening) The extended hours have been selected to match patient preferences (obtained from patient surveys) where possible.

The above 3 new practices, two operating 12 hours a day 7 days a week, plus the GP extended hours, additional urgent care pilots and the walk in centre operating from Boot the Chemist in Birmingham City Centre more than satisfy the national requirements.

I trust this fully answers your question and assures you of the clear patient focus within Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT.

Yours sincerely

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