



The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

01 March 2016

Dear Mr Hunt

MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

There is a crisis in medical recruitment. There are reports in the medical and mainstream press that there is a national shortage of consultants and trainees in many specialties, particularly; general practice, paediatrics, and accident and emergency. A recent census by the Royal College of Physicians revealed that one third of consultant appointment committees did not appoint or were cancelled due to a lack of applicants. In many areas, hospital trusts and general practices are barely able to provide essential care to patients. Locum costs are breaking the banks of these organisations, and thus the NHS.

There are many reasons why this is happening, but the ultimate problem is that, as a country, we do not train enough people to become doctors. Approximately one third of our medical workforce has been trained outside of the UK. One in ten doctors who qualify in the UK emigrates within the first five years of qualification. A higher proportion of doctors work part time than previously. We need to train more doctors in the UK to fill the ever expanding gap in the medical workforce.

Lincolnshire, as you know, has been feeling the pain of this crisis more than most other areas. The hospital trust's locum costs have spiralled, the safety of the paediatric and emergency services has barely been maintained and GP practices are imploding.

The health and social care providers in Lincolnshire are working hard together to reshape the way that we provide services so that safety and cost effectiveness are not compromised. However, to combat this crisis long term, Lincolnshire needs to expand its workforce.

We, the representatives of Lincolnshire's patients, believe that the long term solution to improve the health and healthcare of Lincolnshire is for there to be a medical school in Lincolnshire.

Why should Lincolnshire have a medical school?

- The UK needs more doctors, so we need to increase the number of medical school places.
- United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust is the largest hospital trust in England to not have a medical school attached.
- Creating a medical school would encourage high quality senior clinicians to move to Lincolnshire, stemming the need for locums, and improving the care for patients.
- Doctors tend to stay in the area within which they train, thus, doctors trained in Lincolnshire are likely to stay in Lincolnshire, helping to make the health economy sustainable for the future.

We urge you to make a medical school for Lincolnshire your highest priority in helping to support a struggling health economy.

To make this happen, please meet with us and the GMC, so that we can plan for a healthier community in Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely

Mr Karl McCartney MP
Lincoln

Mr Matt Warman MP
Boston and Skegness

Ms Victoria Atkin MP
Louth and Horncastle

Sir Edward Leigh MP
Gainsborough

Mr Nick Boles MP
Grantham and Stamford

Mr John Hayes MP
South Holland and
The Deepings

Mr Stephen Phillips MP
Sleaford and North
Hykeham

Cllr C Talbot
Chair Lincolnshire Health
Scrutiny Committee

Dr B Wookey
Healthwatch
Lincolnshire

Dr T Hill
Director of Public Health
Lincolnshire

Dr K Hill
Chair
Lincolnshire South CCG

Dr V Bandal
Chair
Lincolnshire SW CCG

Dr S Kapadia
Medical Director
ULHT

Dr Sue Elcock
Medical Director
LPFT

Dr S Hindocha
Chair
Lincolnshire West CCG

Dr K Hanson
Chair
Lincolnshire LMC

Dr P Mitchell
Medical Director
LCHS

Prof Sara Owen
University of Lincoln

Dr P Holmes
Chair
Lincolnshire East CCG

Miss A Varma
Chair
Grantham MAC

Dr T Ashraf
Chair
Boston MAC

Dr S Babu
Chair
Lincoln MAC

Ms Manjeet Gill
Chief Exec
West Lindsey DC

Ms Bev Agass
Chief Exec
South Kesteven DC

Mr Stuart Davy
Chief Exec
East Lindsey DC

Mr Phil Drury
Chief Exec
Boston Borough Council

Ms Anna Graves
Chief Exec
South Holland DC
Councillor Christine Lawton

Ms Angela Andrews
Chief Exec
Lincoln City Council

Mr T McArdle
Chief Exec
Lincolnshire County Council

Mr Ian Fytche
Chief Exec
North Kesteven DC