



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jan Thomas
Accountable Officer
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG

Via email

24 November 2020

Dear Jan,

ACCESS TO IVF SERVICES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

As all seven MPs representing Cambridgeshire constituencies, we are writing to ask that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG reinstates IVF services. Currently, the CCG is one of only three in the country that fails to offer any fertility support on the NHS. Our constituents are being denied access to fertility services, which we believe to be an unacceptable situation.

As you will be aware, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) have issued guidelines on services, which state that women under the age of 40 who suffer from infertility should have access to three NHS cycles of fertility treatment. Last year, a Health Minister wrote to remind you that "CCGs have a statutory responsibility to commission healthcare services that meet the needs of their whole population, including fertility services." Moreover, prior to your decision to end services in 2017, a consultation showed that 80% of respondents were opposed.

Through our role as MPs, we have all met loving couples who are desperate to become parents, yet have encountered fertility challenges and are being denied help from the CCG. Many couples have described the impact on their mental health and on their relationships. Most have attempted to purchase IVF services privately, amounting in some cases to many thousands of pounds and causing financial hardship. This is a real issue for our constituents and we feel compelled to act.

We are not alone. A new campaign group called 'Fight for IVF' is campaigning for equal access to services across the country. Understandably, they want to begin in Cambridgeshire. The group already has a media presence and has begun a national petition. It will continue to campaign until services are reinstated.

As your Members of Parliament, we hope you will respond to this letter by answering the following questions:

1. Will you commit to reinstating NHS fertility services?
2. Will you meet with Fight for IVF and other campaigners in Cambridgeshire?
3. Will you write to us, detailing any assessment the CCG has undertaken on the impact of ceasing IVF services on mental health?

Please give hope to the many couples in our county who need NHS support to become parents. We are keen to work with you and ensure they receive the best possible care.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bristow MP – Peterborough

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP – NE Cambridgeshire

Anthony Browne MP – South Cambridgeshire

Jonathan Djanogly MP – Huntingdon

Lucy Fraser QC MP – SE Cambridgeshire

Shailesh Vara MP – NW Cambridgeshire

Daniel Zeichner MP – Cambridge