

Dr Sheena Parker
National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group [NSCAG]
Department of Health
Room LG04 Wellington House
London SE1 8UG

Saturday May 12th 2001

Dear Dr Parker

PROPOSED PROMOTION OF HAMMERSMITH/QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITALS TO
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADOLESCENT AND ADULT FEMALES WITH CONGENITAL
ABNORMALITIES OF THE GENITAL TRACT

The Child Growth Foundation, in wholeheartedly supporting the AIS & CAH charities from whom you have already heard concerning the above, will be to the point in condemning your proposal.

As a support group for patients with endocrine disorders – some of them involving intersex issues – the Foundation is not only horrified at the AIS/CAH account of QCCH's service and attitude but can well believe it. We have our own considerable experience of paternalistic and arrogant tertiary level specialists – a trait that the NHS itself has had to address frequently over the last year and to which pages of the BMJ have also been devoted.

By assigning National Centre status to QCCH you will be throwing out many years of openness and patient participation between teams of dedicated health professionals in other hospitals and the female patients they care for. The absurdity of this move defies description at a time when it was anticipated that your Department was committed to equality of service delivery and patient choice.

I presume that your proposal has been made for administrative or financial purposes. I am certain from what I have read in the AIS/CAH statements that it cannot be for medical reasons. I submit that NSCAG drop its proposal and allow a significant number of women the medical care that they are happy with and deserve.

Sincerely

Tam Fry
Honorary Chairman