

Trust Headquarters
F Level, Queen Alexandra Hospital
Southwick Hill Road
Cosham
PORTSMOUTH, PO6 3LY
Tel: 023 9228 6770
Fax: 023 9228 6073

Graham Sutton MS FRCS
Associate Medical Director

Cllr Peter Eddis
Chairman
Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Portsmouth
PO1 2AL

1 November 2011

Our ref: GS/AS/dh

Dear Cllr Eddis

Thank you for your recent queries. In answer:

The Vascular Society will recommend the establishment of units serving 800,000 minimum, and this is likely to be ratified at the annual meeting this month. This is the size of West Sussex, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire and also of Southampton, Isle of Wight and Winchester. Many/most units in the country will not meet this size threshold but it is the intention of the Vascular Society to move toward this figure.

There are many units in the South West a whole lot smaller than this that need rationalisation before one would interfere with a large well established unit with excellent results (like Portsmouth). There is little to lose; if the few mega units formed with this latest shake up show, over the next five years, huge improvements in outcomes and no detrimental effects on the units that no longer have a Vascular unit, then the unit in Portsmouth may have to reconsider whether patients would be best served by allowing Brighton and Southampton along this part of the coast to become two only providers.

At the moment there is insufficient evidence to support such radical change especially when units such as Salisbury and Dorchester locally, plus for example three in York are all left untouched and too much anxiety about the knock on for other services especially when neither Southampton nor Brighton have the facilities or space to absorb the activity in the short term.

Kind regards



f-p.
Graham Sutton MS FRCS
Associate Medical Director