



## Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group

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5<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Janet Cree  
Managing Director  
Hammersmith & Fulham CCG

Dear Janet

### **Application – Variation of the Babylon Subcontract with GP at Hand**

I am writing with regard to the application received by Fulham and Hammersmith CCG from the GP Practice, GP at Hand.

The application dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 requests a variation to the sub-contract with Babylon Healthcare services Ltd to add Badger House, 121 Glover Street, Birmingham, B9 4EY.

On behalf of Birmingham & Solihull CCG, I would like to formally object to the variation on the grounds of clinical safety.

It is our view that Hammersmith & Fulham Primary Care Commissioning Committee should require additional assurance from the Practice around the delivery of this 24hr digital service supplemented by a face-to-face location in Birmingham. The overall assurance framework is not yet robust or tested for a national service to be delivered from a single practice outside of Birmingham.

It is our understanding that this is now being reviewed by NHS England and we would request the application is refused until this work has reported.

Our concerns also relate to the ability of the contractor to integrate and work with the locally agreed pathways for services in an effective and safe manner. This would require assurance from your Committee that they are able to deliver this way of working through a digital platform.

In addition, we would also require assurance around how the service remains safe and effective around safeguarding issues, medicines management and delivery of local policies as well as dealing with complex patients.

This new digital offer in effect could potentially significantly de-stabilise a number of local practices if a large number of patients (particularly young adults) register with GP at Hand. This would have consequences on the wider population and the chronically sick who would need alternative care if a practice becomes unviable.

I look forward to the outcome of the Primary Care Committee's decision and the NHS England review of these services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Jennings". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

**Paul Jennings**  
Chief Executive Officer