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**Sent:** Saturday, December 06, 2014 3:35 PM

**To:** [David.Bennett@Monitor.gov.uk](mailto:David.Bennett@Monitor.gov.uk)

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**Subject:** Rights of people to influence local decisions in healthcare

David, I wrote to you on November 7th regarding the rights of patients and the public to influence the composition and configuration of local health service. I am shocked to have received no reply from you. I did receive an acknowledgement from Claire on November 17th but nothing since.

Can I remind you of Margaret Hodge's comments about Monitor earlier this year?

"At the same time Monitor’s remit is expanding beyond protecting NHS foundation trusts from failure. It now has a wider duty to protect and promote the interests of patients and a role in ensuring the continuity of essential health services.

Monitor must demonstrate how it will prioritise the protection of patients’ interests above those of NHS foundation trusts, to allay concerns that its new responsibilities are conflicting.

It must also demonstrate how it will build up the skills and capacity internally and within trusts to provide the quality of staff and leadership needed to take the NHS forward in these difficult times."

I do hope you will find time to address your responsibilities to the public by answering our letter which deals with matters of considerable public importance.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Alexander

Chair

HAPIA

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