

28th January 2021

News release:

GP surgeries in Prime Minister's constituency plead with Prime Minister and Sir Simon Stevens, CEO NHSE to intervene as CCG blocks them vaccinating patients closer to their homes.

West London Medical Centre (WLMC) , Hillingdon and Church Road Surgery (CHRS) , Cowley, two well run teaching practices with 'Good' CQC rating in Prime Minister's constituency , have been blocked by Local Hillingdon CCG from vaccinating their own patients closer to their homes despite continued attempts to get the one of the surgeries made as a designated site for giving COVID vaccinations .

As passionate patient advocates, the surgeries, at the beginning of campaign, proactively went all the way out to get ultra-low temperature freezer that can store the Pfizer vaccine at minus 70 degrees - which is something no other surgery has done in the country.

Following application, in consultation with NHS England, Senior managers from North West London collaboration of clinical commissioning groups and Hillingdon CCG arranged a site visit to approve Church Road Surgery, Cowley as a designated vaccine site for patients of both surgeries. This visit seems to have been blocked by CCG and the Practices have not been given any credible explanation. NHS England have refused to approve surgeries citing lack of support from CCG .

Surgeries feel it is important that patients are given the opportunity to have their vaccinations at their familiar local GP surgery, closer to home, especially the vulnerable patients/elderly /disabled who are but not in a position to travel to sites far from home.

The 2 surgeries are not members of larger Primary Care Networks (PCN) . Joining a Primary Care Network is entirely **voluntary**, and the practices made the decision not to join a PCN in April 2019 but to continue to provide a personalised service to patients along the traditional family doctor's model. Nationally, there are plenty of practices in a similar position.

The PCNs or the company that runs the vaccination programme at 2 centres within London borough of Hillingdon – The Confederation <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/10771707> – do not have access to confidential patient data of these 2 practices. West London Medical Centre and Church Road surgery did not join the company due to concerns about conflicts of interests and data protection. The company was formed by all other Hillingdon GP Practices including practices of CCG Governing body members and it has access to confidential patient data of all shareholder practices which makes it possible to see and treat or vaccinate any patient within the population of shareholder practices. The company sites are still far for the patients and the only other option left is visiting mass centres outside the borough. There is no vaccination site in PM's

constituency. The surgeries are unclear whether the CCG is trying to punish practices for not joining PCNs and/or the Company.

The application to offer COVID vaccination service is between individual practices and NHS England. GP surgeries can apply as a PCN or as a group so two practices applied as a group to provide the vaccination service. It was initially accepted by NHS England and a site CCG visit was planned until the CCG blocked this.

In the middle of this national emergency both surgeries are in this bizarre situation where they are bounced back and forward between NHS England that says they will not approve because the CCG would not support our application and the CCG who are refusing to allow us to vaccinate because NHS England would not approve our application.

The patients wrote to their local MP, Mr Boris Johnson and the CCG responded in a letter to MP/PM with factual inaccuracies in relation to the requirements of the Covid vaccination programme. Consequently, the Prime Minister has not been given the full picture. The CCG stated that:

1. only members of the Primary Care Network (PCN) can apply to become a designated GP vaccination site,
2. that the practices did not have capacity to vaccinate 975 doses within a week hence cannot be approved
3. the practices did not give enough assurances they will open 8am-8pm 7 days a week.

All are factually incorrect. Furthermore, the CCG are claiming it is NHS England that refused the permission, but NHS England did not approve the practices application because the CCG withdrew support. Independent pharmacies are allowed to give covid vaccine and there is no reason why the group of West London Medical centre and Church Road Surgery should be blocked from vaccinating own patients.

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Patient Mr DB wrote to Constituency MP, the Prime Minister
Dear Mr Johnson,

Thank you for your reply to my appeal for help regarding access to the Covid-19 vaccination at the West London Medical Centre. Although your response accurately records the existing problem, sadly it fails to challenge Hillingdon CCG's dissembling and misleading reply or reverse their disingenuous refusal to permit the WLMC to administer the vaccine.

*Hillingdon CCG claims that WLMC does not qualify to act as an approved vaccination site as it is not be part of the local Primary Care Network. But as I understand it, the specification for Covid services states that non PCN practices **can** be included, they just need to be willing to sign up to the Enhanced Services Specification. HCCG have simply got it wrong in this respect.*

I also note that HCCG's assertions that the WLMC is 'unable to deliver the required 975 vaccines, nor deliver vaccinations 7 days a week, from 8am-8pm' are also wrong. When the Oxford vaccine was approved the 975 vaccines per week requirement was removed - as HCCG should well know as they themselves can now offer 75 dose wholesale packs. I also believe that WLMC have given firm

reassurances to the CCG that they will open every day, including bank holidays 8am to 8pm. However, as HCCG failed to follow up on this, it is surely they who are at fault, not the WLMC.

Your helpful link regarding NHS England's decision not to approve WLMC & Church Road Surgery as primary care vaccination centres, illuminates how Dr and his practices are treated locally for his refusal to give in to the considerable local pressure from HCCG for his practices to be subsumed into the local PCN. I fully support Dr in his efforts to protect the status of his two surgeries as 'local family practices', and I highly value the clinically informed relationship with a doctor who 'knows' me that this allows (impossible in a PCN). His stance also protects my clinical confidentiality from ever wider intrusion by other agencies (including my records).

As I've pointed out, Hillingdon CCG have got things badly wrong in a number of ways, so I ask you again to enquire further into HCCG's unreasonable refusal to approve the surgery as an accredited vaccination centre, and on behalf of all Dr's patients, help bring about a more helpful solution to our current Covid-19 related health crisis.

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Practices urgently call upon Prime Minister& Constituency MP and CEO of NHSE Sir Simon to intervene and approve Church Road Surgery to become a designated site to vaccinate patients from WLMC and CHR5 closer to their home.

West London Medical Centre , Hillingdon www.londongp.org.uk
Church Road Surgery , Cowley www.churchroadsurgery.london