

Paper 6

6.1 Letter to LCC HOSC

Councillor Jonathan Morgan
Leicestershire County Council

26 March 2024

Dear Councillor Morgan,

We note with disappointment the comment made from the chair at the Leicestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) in a recent meeting in public on 6 March 2024. During the review of the work of Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire (HWLL) your comment was "Rutland are the only people who ever send anyone along to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. I have to say - not always constructively, I think, which has been noted by Joint Health Scrutiny as well as this particular Health Scrutiny [...] So, I think you have to accept or acknowledge that the Healthwatch brand is not particularly positive or positively acknowledged on scrutinies."

This disparaging comment about Healthwatch Rutland was made in a public arena, with no opportunity for us to respond. We consider it inappropriate and outside the remit of the Leicestershire HOSC to make such comment.

As an independent organisation that is commissioned by Rutland County Council, Healthwatch Rutland is separate from the HWLL contract that was being scrutinised by Leicestershire County Council. We are willing, as always, to review our work and its impact with our Rutland commissioners and elected representatives whenever required.

We will continue to regularly attend the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to fulfil our statutory purpose in voicing the Rutland public and patient perspective in cross-system discussions on health and care matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Janet Underwood

Dr Janet Underwood PhD

CC:

Members of Leicestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Ramsey Ross, Chair Rutland Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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6.2 Response from Chair of LCC HOSC, Jonathan Morgan 27/3/24

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter in response to a recent agenda item at the LCC HOSC which related to Leicestershire and Leicester's Healthwatch limited engagement with Scrutiny.

Having rewatched the exert you have mentioned, the context of the frustration was not about Rutland Healthwatch's attendance at the LLR HOSC, but the lack of attendance and engagement from Leicestershire and Leicester Healthwatch, which means that the over 96% of the population of LLR aren't hearing a Healthwatch voice for their area at those meetings – this isn't a constructive approach to take, and from a wider Healthwatch perspective, certainly not good for the organisation's image.

I'm sorry if you took those comments in the context of anything other than a commentary on the non-attendance and engagement of Healthwatch for Leicestershire and Leicester, and that mentioning Rutland in any context should be avoided at LCC HOSC meetings.

Kind regards

Jonathan Morgan

**County Councillor, Loughborough South West
Chair, LCC Health Oversight Scrutiny Committee**