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David Clayton-Smith, Chairman Dr Adrian Bull, Chief Executive East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust Conquest Hospital The Ridge St Leonards-on-Sea East Sussex TN37 7RD

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Dea Duil and Advison,

I am writing to congratulate you and your team on the exceptional improvement at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, that has come together to mean that you were the provider with the most improved A&E performance standard in the 3 months from June 2017 to August 2017 compared to the 3 month period from March 2017 to May 2017.

Moving from 80.7% to 89.4% is a remarkable achievement. However, whilst it is encouraging that you have made progress in respect of your A&E performance, you will be aware that this is below 90% and I would expect to see continued improvement to achieve the 90% expected of all trusts by September 2017 and to continue to make progress as we move into a challenging period.

From visiting organisations throughout the country, I know that the immense amount of work that will have been behind this improvement cannot be underestimated. This improvement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Trust's staff. Please do pass on my congratulations to all those who work at the trust; the service they give makes a real difference to the lives of many of the area's sickest and most vulnerable patients.

I hope that you will build on this improvement, as the whole NHS strives to improve A&E performance over the course of the next year. Again, please pass on my personal congratulations and thanks to everyone who has made this happen.

JEREMY HUNT