

Stcom/2412/2004.

Constituency Office  
51 Market Street  
Omagh, BT78 1EL  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Parliament Buildings  
Belfast BT4 3XX

Mr Clive Gowdy  
Department of Health,  
Social Services and Public Safety  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3SQ

18<sup>th</sup> September 2004

Dear Mr Gowdy,

*Mr Hamilton: There is an issue as to whether it is possible or desirable to respond to much of this letter. However, the man is an elected representative & does need to get some response for days reply.*

Thank you for your letter to me dated July 8<sup>th</sup> 2004 on behalf of Minister, Angela Smith MP.

I have also received a letter from the Minister agreeing to a further meeting with myself re: the ongoing health problems we have up here in Co Tyrone (affecting particularly our women and children) and the impending health crisis that this area of Northern Ireland is certainly heading towards.

I look forward to this meeting with Angela Smith as, today, we hear that we may, hopefully, have in sight a new devolved government administration for N. Ireland.

I must however comment and respond to your letter to me.

You are quite correct when you state that Sperrin Lakeland Trust have replied to my letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

Not surprisingly at all that this response by SLT is totally unsatisfactory and is typical of the type of reply that I, or anyone in West Tyrone, would expect from this biased and Fermanagh based Trust having been misled and deceived by them for some years and knowing fine well their own selfish motives.

There are many reasons why SLT's letter to me is unsatisfactory and these have been documented in my reply to their Chief Executive Mr Hugh Mills and this reply too has been copied to the Minister, Angela Smith.

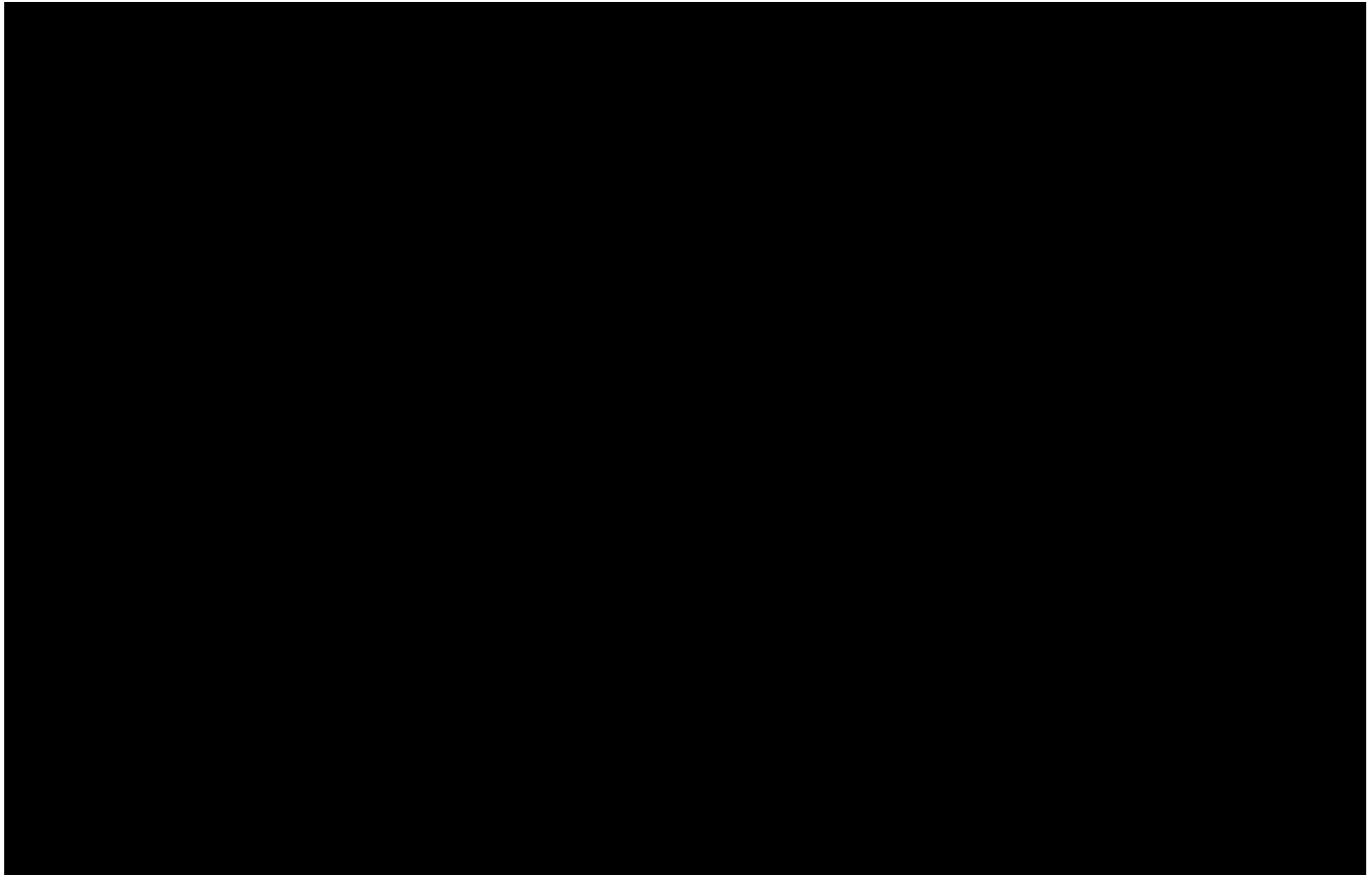
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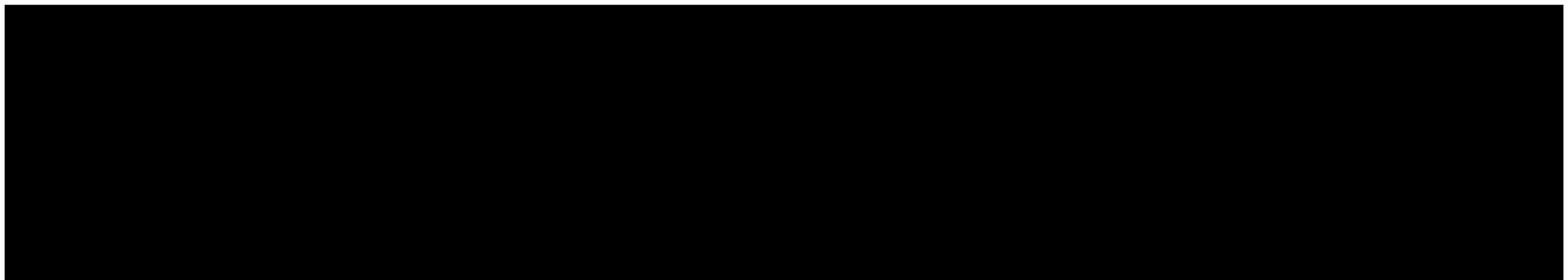
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The people in Fermanagh & West Tyrone all have been lead to believe that this new Enniskillen Hospital will have all the modern facilities of a modern day European Acute Hospital including professionally recognized and Consultant Led Maternity & Paediatric Units.

I believe that this is deception of the highest order and that all of us in the South West are being misled by Sperrin Lakeland Trust, and Hugh Mills in particular, as they (SLT) push on with haste and with absolute dogged determination to have this hospital built "in their own patch" as soon as possible.



I feel very angry about this as I know that Mr Hugh Mills and the Sperrin Lakeland Trust are fully aware of the unsustainability of these two particular departments and the hospital overall.

They are fully aware that there will be no traumatology, nor intensive care, nor ENT in this new hospital and, add to this, no professionally recognised (Royal Colleges)

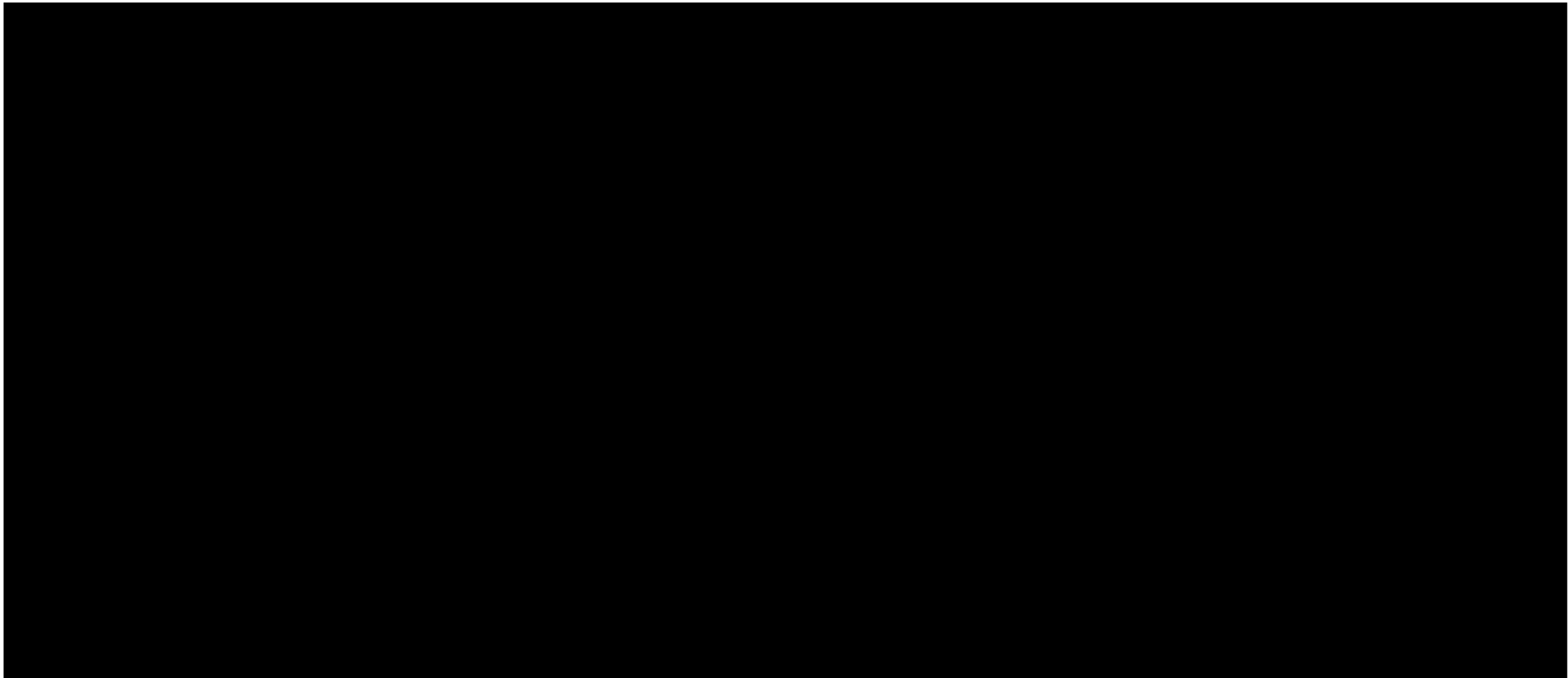




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maternity or paediatric units and what we will be left with will be little more than a well equipped local or cottage hospital.



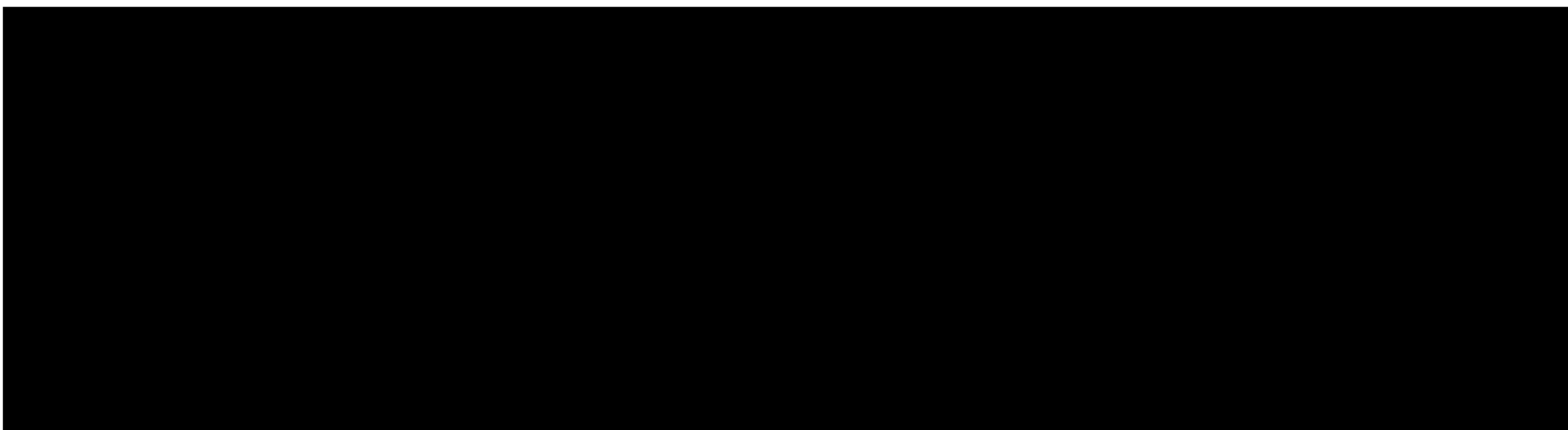
I note also that Sperrin Lakeland Trust have advised you of the GP/Senior Management Team Meetings and feel that I should be addressing these issues at these meetings.

Mr Mills also highlighted this in his reply to me and it was quite obvious that this was written, not primarily for me to see, but for you people in the Department of Health to see and read.

These GP/SMT meetings concern themselves with day to day communications and protocols between all of my GP colleagues and our hospital services e.g. formats of referral letters, waiting lists etc,

These meetings are not at all a forum to discuss the Developing Better Services (DBS) proposals and Mr Mills knows as well as I do that, if these meetings were used to discuss the "stripping bare" of 200 years of health provision from this whole community, there would not be time to talk about anything else.

I also should point out that many of my Fermanagh GP colleagues attend these meetings and they would not be prepared to spend the very many hours required to discuss the healthcare problems that we have (and will increasingly have from DBS) in West Tyrone.

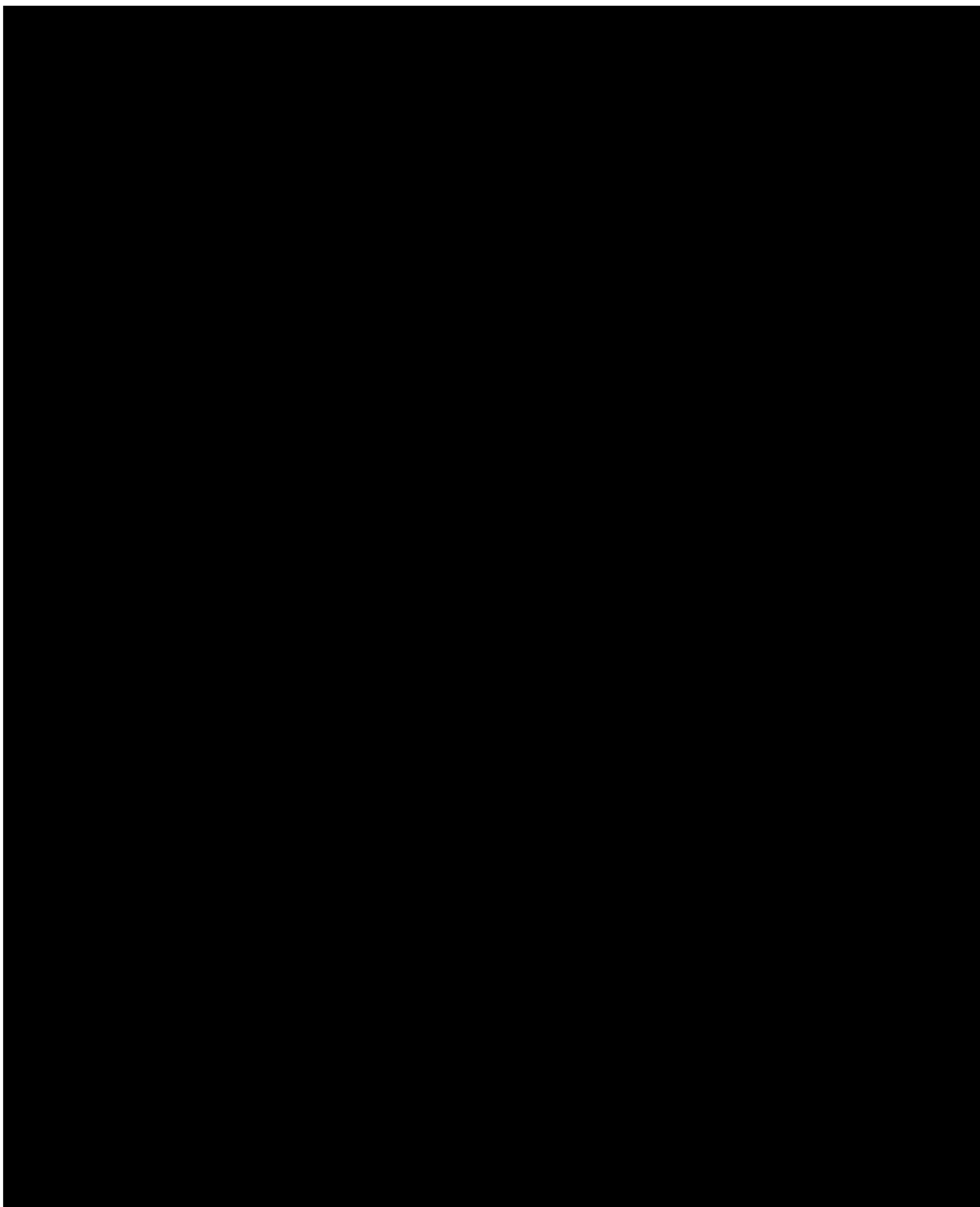






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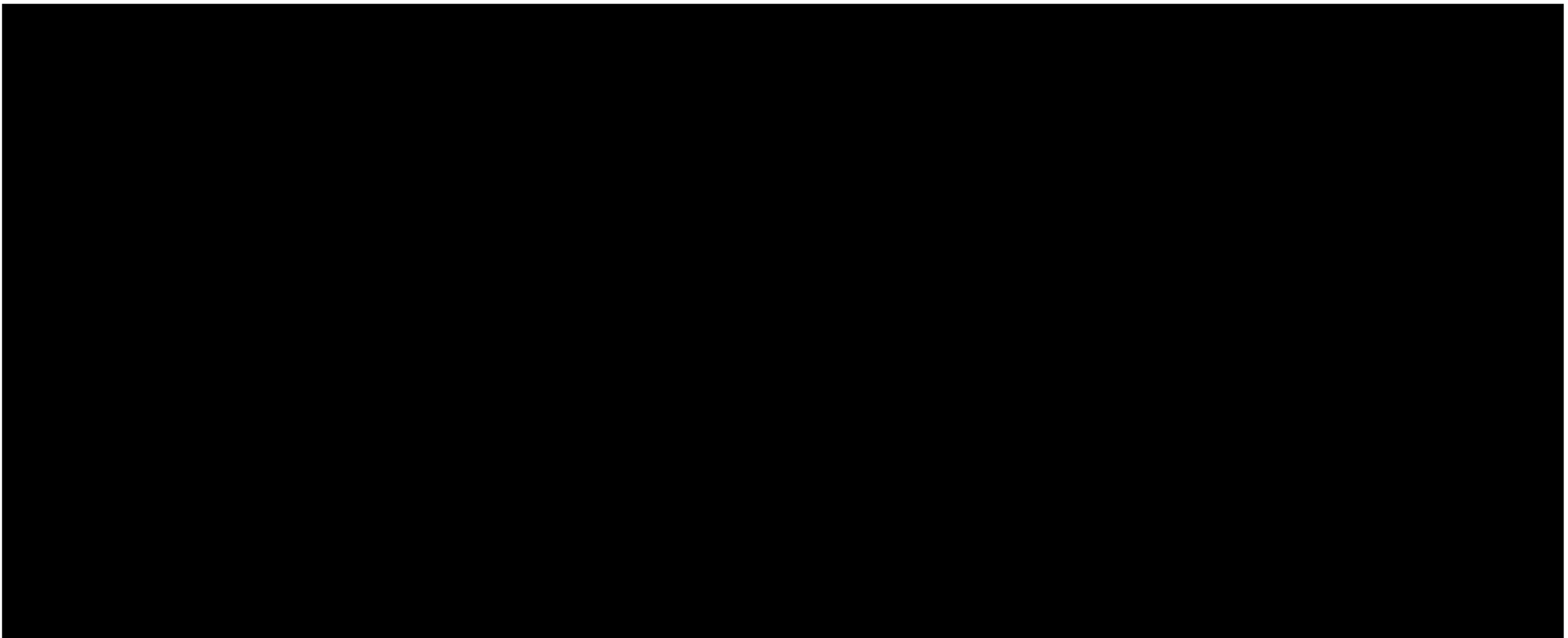






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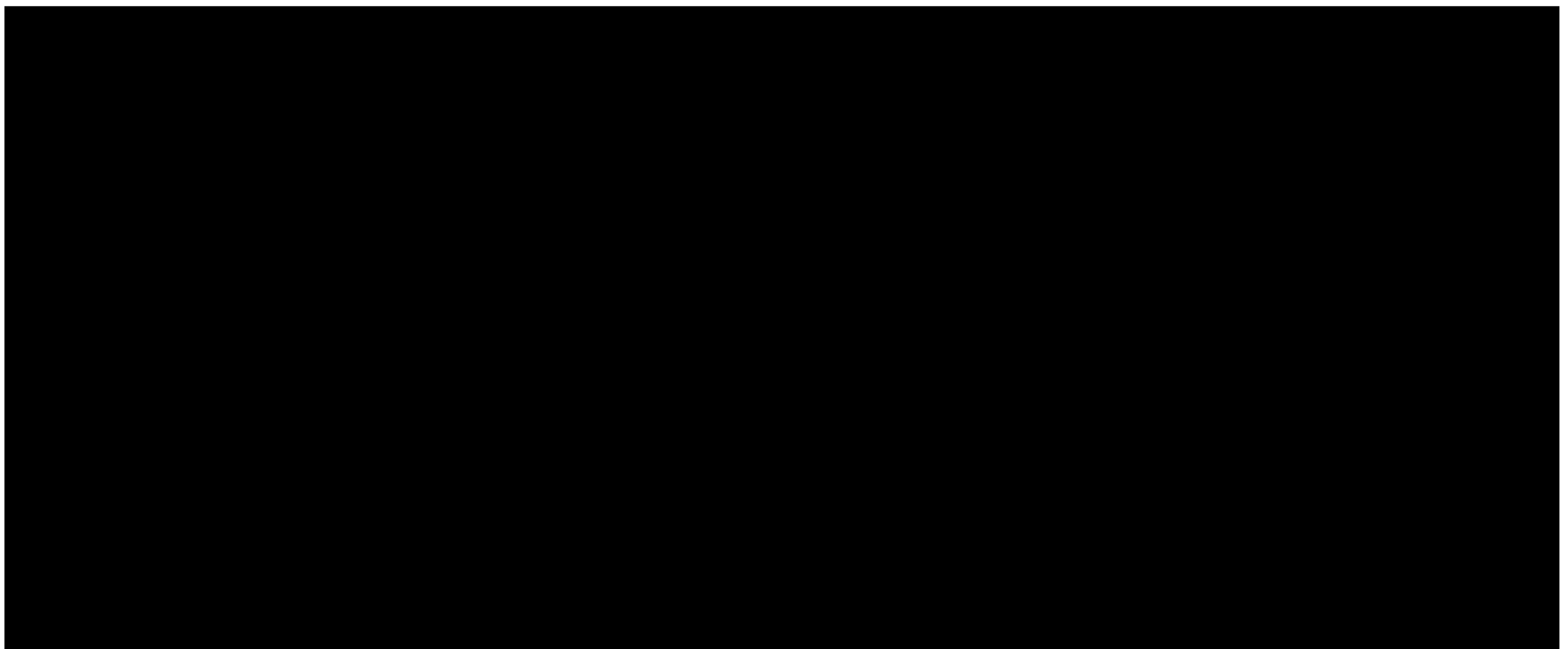
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I intend now to follow this up as I believe that, once again, the Sperrin Lakeland Trust are trying to cover up a gross failure on their part in the provision of acceptable, decent and modern health services and facilities to our patients.

This does not surprise me one bit as we are well aware of the "spin" and misleading statements used by SLT down the years and, indeed, so also are those in Fermanagh which was particularly highlighted by the attempt (almost successful) of SLT to cover up the facts surrounding the death of a poor unfortunate child (Lucy Crawford) in Fermanagh just a few years back.

By the way – the full facts of this "Fermanagh Cover Up" will have to be exposed – we in this area of N. Ireland will insist upon it and see to it – believe me !!  
We have had enough of the lies / "spin" & "cover ups" of SLT.

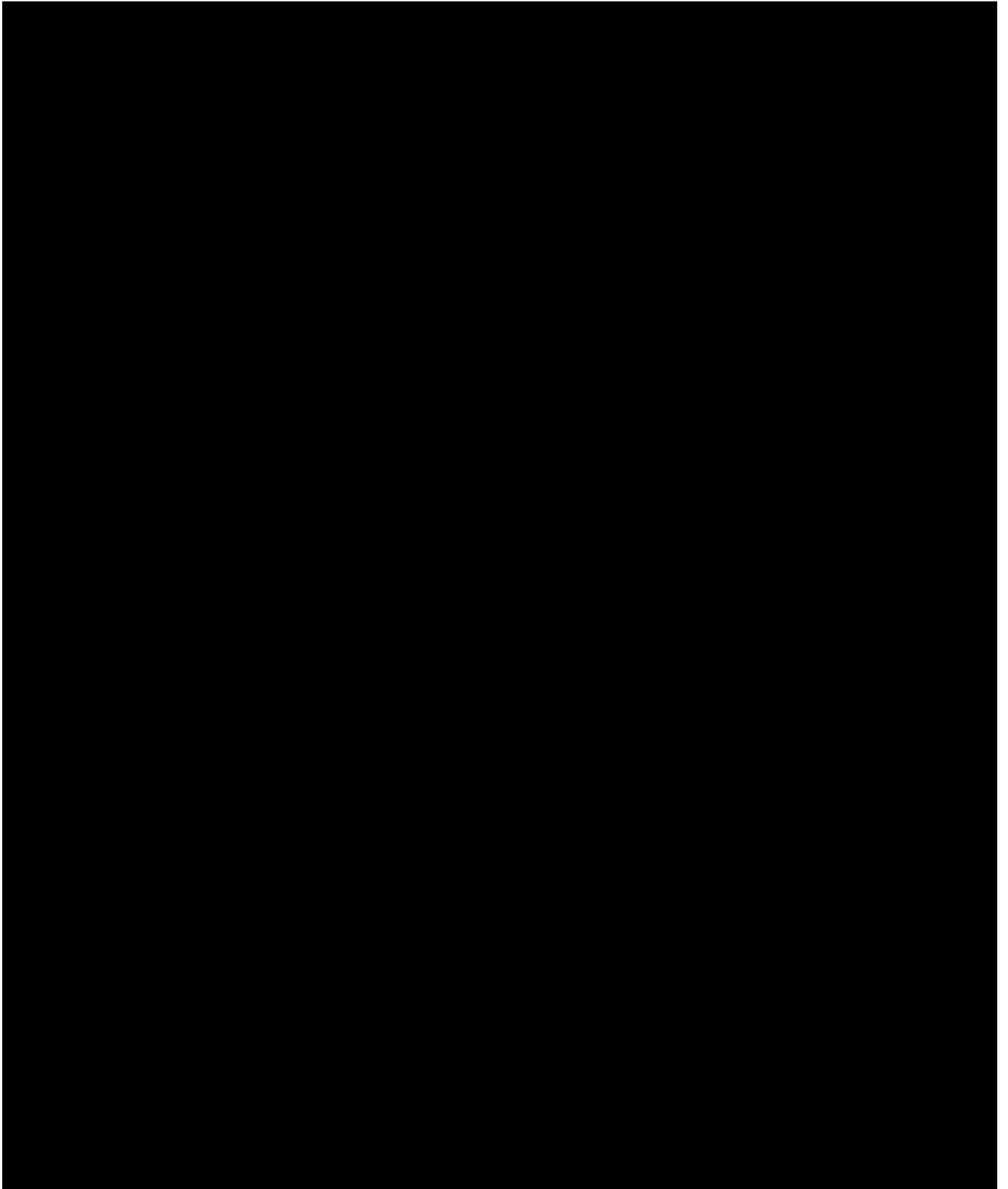






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Finally, I described your DHSSPS as "undemocratic" earlier and this is now accepted to be the case across N. Ireland as you continue to refuse to listen to all of the people (from our two proud traditions and others) of Co. Tyrone – 166,000 – and their democratically elected public representatives.

As of today, I believe that we are now taking the necessary steps towards proper, just and democratic devolved N. Ireland government.

Soon, therefore, your DHSSPS will become accountable to the people and this Heath Care Injustice being inflicted upon our people of Tyrone by your Dept. will be stopped.

Only then can we begin the process which will provide just, fair and equal Health Care facilities for all of the people of South West Ulster.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and I would value your comments.

I will be discussing these issues again with the Minister, Angela Smith, when we meet again in November and, within the next few days, I will be sending on to the Minister's secretary the topics that I would like to cover and the questions that I would like answered during this forthcoming meeting

Sincerely yours

  
Dr Kieran Deeny

M.L.A.



SECGM/2412/2004

From: Heather Tweed  
Secondary Care Directorate

Date: 14 October 2004

1. Mr Sullivan – *approved, 14 October 2004*
2. Mr Hamilton

**FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO SECRETARY FROM DR DEENEY**

**Summary**

**Issue:** Letter from Dr K Deeny, MLA, about the response he received from you on behalf of the Minister

**Timing:** Immediate

**Presentational Issues:** None

**Recommendation:** To issue a reply along the lines of the attached draft

**Background**

Pursuant to COR 232&243 and SECGM 1520, Dr Kieran Deeny, MLA, wrote to you on 18 September, expressing concerns about a large number of issues including:

- Health service provision in West Tyrone
- The location of the new South West Hospital to the North of Enniskillen



- The need to consider health provision for the border counties from an all-Ireland perspective
- The services being provided for pregnant women and children in West Tyrone
- The management of Sperrin Lakeland Trust
- The sustainability of the new acute hospital
- His disagreement that his issues and concerns re DBS can adequately be addressed at the GP/Senior Management Team meetings held by Sperrin Lakeland Trust
- His desire to have copies of the responses the Department received from Sperrin Lakeland trust regarding [REDACTED] referred to in his earlier letter

- [REDACTED]

### Position

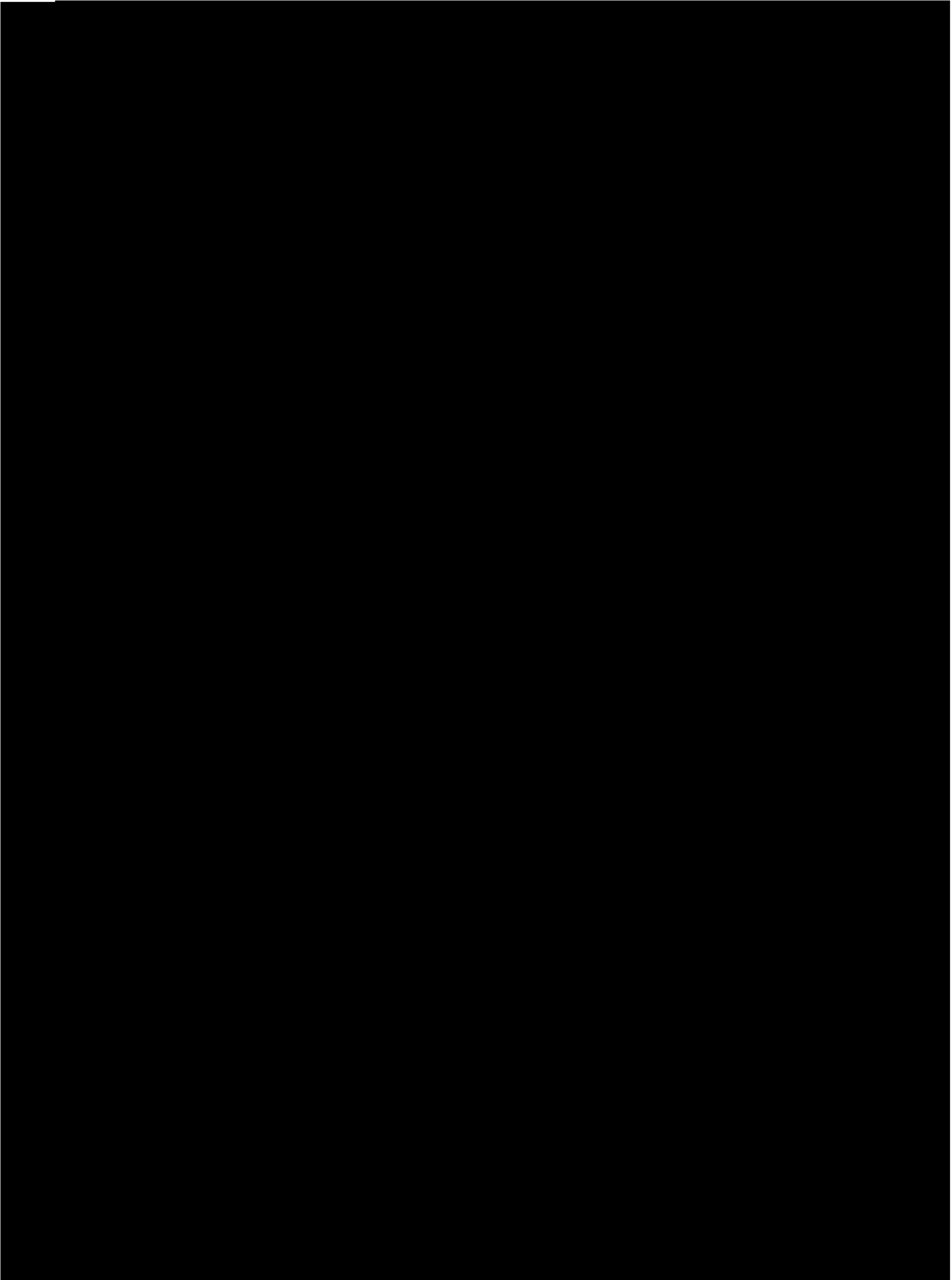
2. This is the latest in a series of rambling, unstructured letters from Dr Deeny, raising concerns about healthcare provision in the Tyrone area. A number of the issues set out above have already been dealt with in previous responses and we do not propose to revisit these. The briefing provided in the following paragraphs therefore focuses on those issues in the latest letter from Dr Deeny that are either new or materially different from those raised previously. Details of these issues are set out below.

3. [REDACTED]

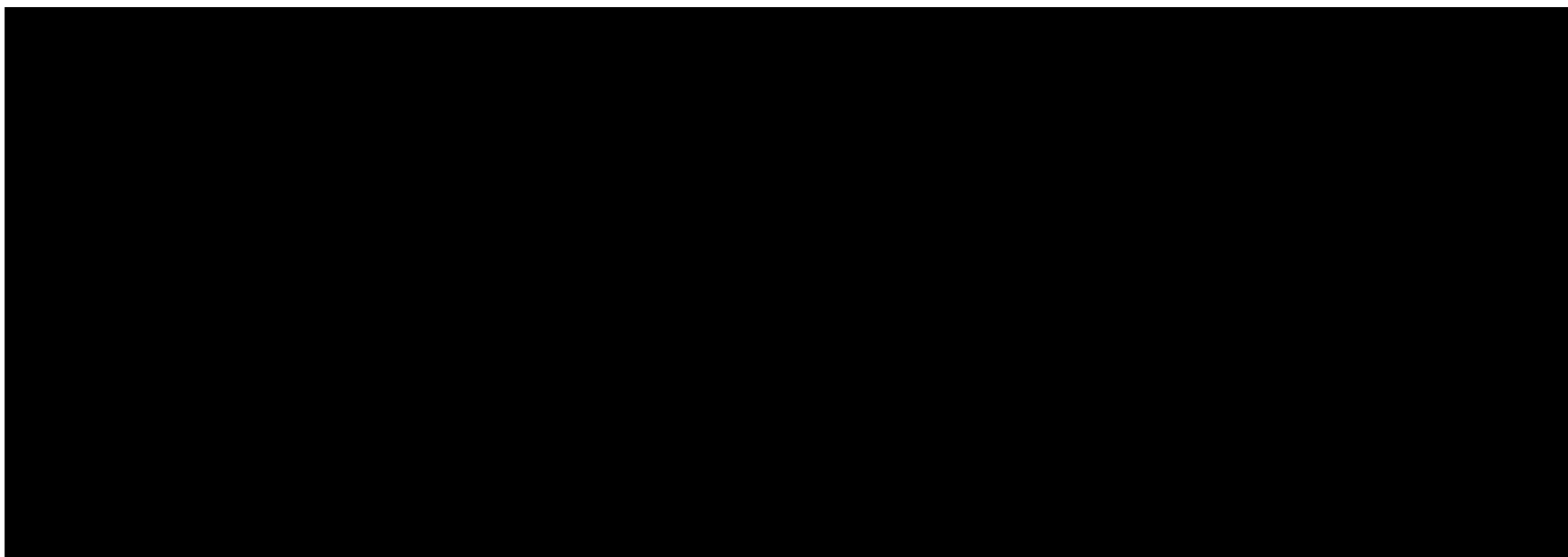
DHSSPS

005-011-067



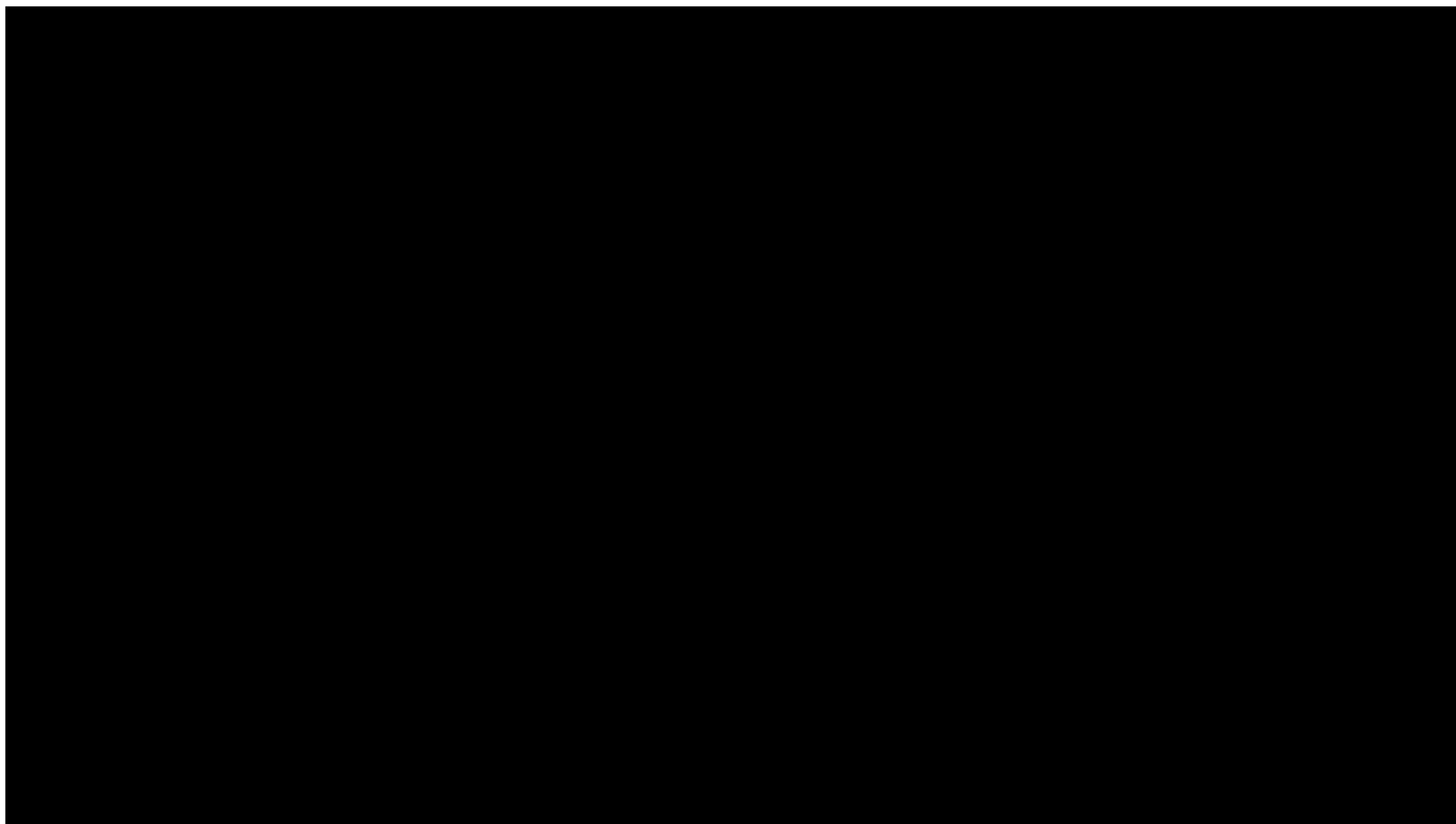






### Sperrin Lakeland Trust responses to the Department

8. In his latest letter Dr Deeny has requested copies of the correspondence that the Department received from Sperrin Lakeland Trust in relation to the particular circumstances of [REDACTED]. We referred to this correspondence – which indicated that appropriate care was provided in both instances – in our letter to Dr Deeny of 20 July 2004. Because of patient confidentiality, we are not able to copy this correspondence to Dr Deeny. Hugh Mills has invited Dr Deeny to meet with him to discuss the circumstances relating to the two cases, but this invitation was declined.



DHSSPS

005-011-069





Recommendation

11. To issue a reply along the lines of the attached draft.

Heather Tweed

Copy Distribution: Peter Deazley

Ext





Dr K Deeny MLA

51 Market Street

Omagh

BT78 1EL

Our Ref: SECGM/2412/2004

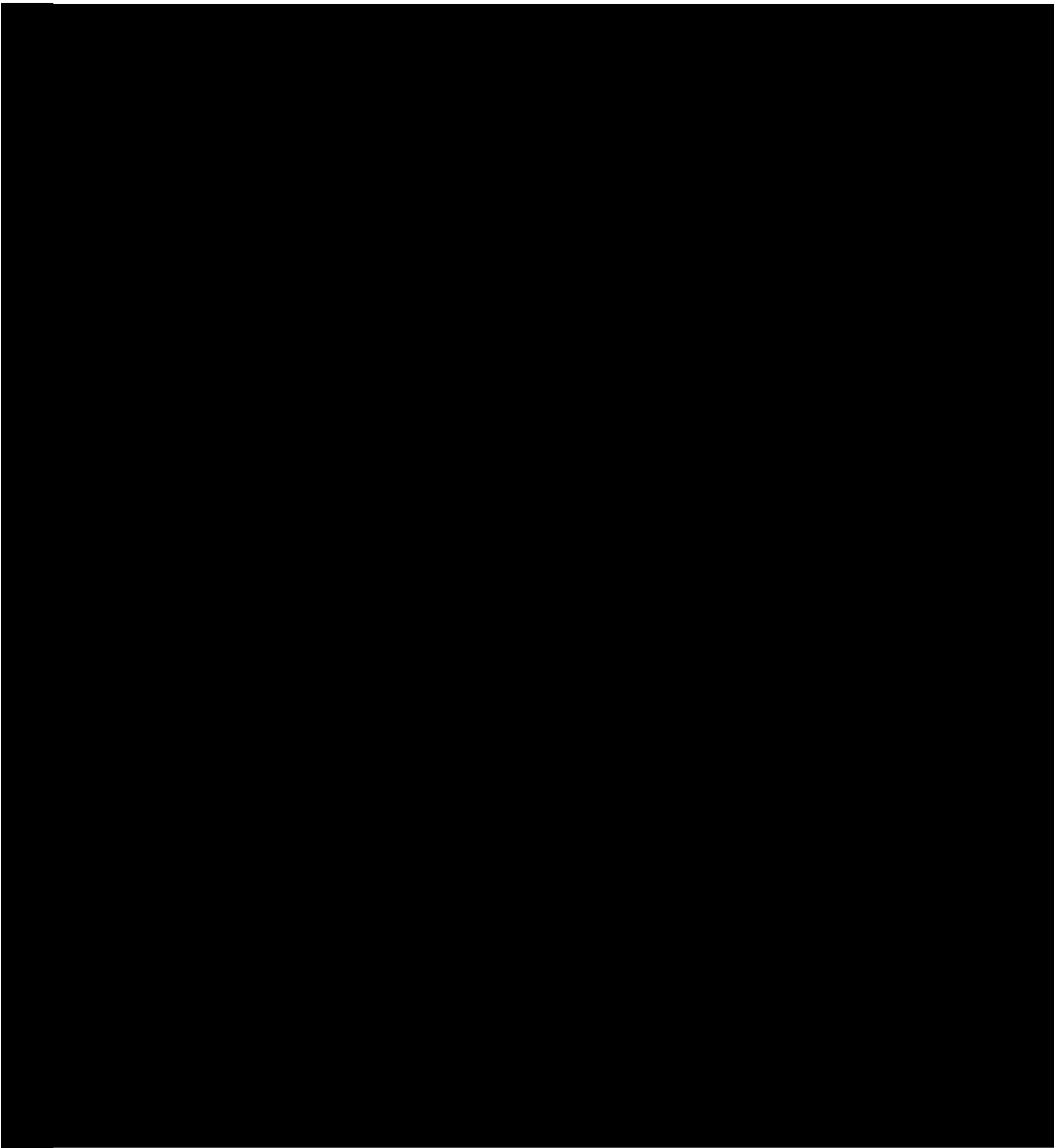
\*\*October 2004

Thank you for your letter of 18 September. I believe that a number of the issues you raise have already been dealt with in my previous correspondence and I have attempted therefore to respond only to any new issues set out in your latest letter. I am aware that you are meeting with the Minister next month to discuss your concerns.

DHSSPS

005-011-071





DC GOWDY

DHSSPS

005-011-072