

Date: 11th June 2019
Our ref: ZMC/JL



An Open Letter To Nicola Firth
Interim Chief Officer/Director of Nursing
The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
The Royal Oldham Hospital
Rochdale Road
Oldham
OL1 2JH

Councillor Dr Z Chauhan
Oldham Council
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UT

Dear Ms Firth

Re: Jean Purdy

I am sure you have seen and heard the many news headlines regarding Jean Purdy, whose crucial role in the birth of the first test tube baby in 1978, has been so tragically forgotten.

My research confirms that there are three plaques at The Royal Oldham Hospital, none of which recognise Jean Purdy. I have publicly spoken about this historic injustice and the need to rectify it (links are available on the BBC website, MEN and the Oldham Evening Chronicle).

Purdy's omission is, I believe, nothing short of an historical injustice. However, the release of archives relating to the birth, afford us a unique opportunity to right this wrong and at the same time remind our current healthcare professionals of the importance of team work and encourage our younger generation to enter healthcare roles. It would also re-affirm to women that their achievements will be recognised in this era.

I propose therefore, that we work together to create a new plaque celebrating all three members of the team responsible for this medical miracle.

As I am sure you are aware, Oldham recently unveiled a statue to Annie Kenney,

who did so much to inspire universal suffrage. This popular landmark was paid from via fundraising by our Oldham West and Royton MP, Jim McMahon. After discussions with Jim, I have received assurances that there will be monies available for a new plaque at the Royal Oldham Hospital.

Between ourselves we can correct this historic mistake by recognising Jean Purdy's contributions towards IVF and create an accurate historic plaque that both celebrates and inspires; and pitches our borough as a place where healthcare breakthroughs are born.

As we are fastly approaching the birthday of the NHS it might be a great opportunity to correct this historical mistake by unveiling this plaque at the Royal Oldham Hospital.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zahid Chauhan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Dr Zahid Chauhan
Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
Health and Social Care, Metropolitan Borough Oldham

0161 770 3000
zahid.chauhan@oldham.gov.uk
www.zahidchauhan@oldham.gov.uk
[@chauhanzahid](https://www.instagram.com/chauhanzahid)

cc Honourable Jim McMahon MP
Oldham West and Royton CLP