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NHS Lothian staff

August 2019

Further to my letter of 18 July 2019 I wanted to write to thank you again for your continued patience as we work to migrate services to the new site of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, the Department of Clinical Neurosciences and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, as soon as it is safe to do so. Protecting patient safety will always be my top priority.

I had a helpful meeting with staffside representatives from NHS Lothian on Tuesday 13 August 2019. This gave me the opportunity to provide further assurance that we will continue to work closely with the board to resolve the current issues, and that I expect NHS Lothian to keep the Trade Unions and Professional Organisations fully sighted on any issues which may affect staff.

I understand recent headlines about the future of the new hospital have caused upset to staff who have worked hard to make the move and I want to provide personal assurance that when I have information on the next steps for the phased move, staff and patients will be the first to know. We are in daily contact with the board and I know the staff at the existing site, and across NHS Lothian, continue to provide quality care.

Please let me assure you that there are no plans whatsoever to 'pull down' the building and there is no evidence at all to support the claim that this would need to be done.

It's important to stress that the timetable of work I set out in July remains on track. Work by Health Protection Scotland (HPS) and Health Facilities Scotland (HFS) is now well underway and will give me the facts on which I will base any future decision about a timetable for the move. I expect to have a report on this in September.

I know that the entire senior leadership team in NHS Lothian is working hard to resolve these matters. We will continue to work with the team to provide support where appropriate and to ensure that they have the capacity they need to both deliver continued standards of high quality patient care and plan for the safe transfer of services to the new site.

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In the meantime I want to thank you again for your patience, understanding and all you are doing to manage the current situation whilst you continue to provide the high quality patient care that is so appreciated. I assure you that we will continue to keep you, patients and relatives informed of progress.

Kind regards

Jeane
JEANE FREEMAN

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