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NHS Lothian staff

C/O
Human Resources Director, NHS Lothian
Employee Director, NHS Lothian

30th September 2019

Dear Colleague

I wanted to write to thank those of you who could take the opportunity to meet the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and me last Monday. I know that it wasn't possible for everyone so I also wanted to write to all staff, covering the issues I discussed when I visited and to give everyone an update on the work we are undertaking.

In my letter dated the 11th of September, I highlighted the publication of the two reports I had commissioned in July from KPMG LLP and NHS National Services Scotland (NSS). The NSS report made it clear that significant work had to commence to ensure compliance of the site. The report highlighted a programme of work including a solution for the design of critical care ventilation, the procurement and installation of the ventilation system, as well as highlighting the significant level of testing and validation that was required. The Department of Clinical Neurosciences (DCN) is unaffected by the issue of ventilation that was identified in critical care, but the further work required to the site could have an impact on DCN. I have attached the links and summaries of the findings of both the KPMG and NSS reports in Annex's A and B respectively.

Following the publication of these reports, Mary Morgan has been appointed as the Senior Programme Director and will be working as part of the NHS Lothian team reporting directly to government. Mary will oversee the plan I set out to deliver a safe and compliant site for the new Edinburgh Hospital for Children and Young people and DCN and deliver on the timescales set out on completing the work on DCN by Spring next year and the Children's Hospital by next Autumn. Further to this in my statement to Parliament on the 18th of September 2019, I announced the establishment of a Public Inquiry reporting directly to government. This Inquiry will consider both the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital campus and the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and DCN in Edinburgh, determine how deficiencies in ventilation and other key building systems occurred and make recommendations on the steps we need to take to ensure past mistakes are not repeated in future infrastructure projects. The reports from KPMG and NSS that were published on the 11th of September will provide significant evidence to the Inquiry. We will work to ensure that

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the Public Inquiry does not derail or delay the important work needed to make sure the new site is compliant and within the timescale I have set out.

I was grateful for the opportunity to hear from staff about their concerns on timelines and issues highlighted following your pre-visits to the new site. I want to encourage you to continue to share your concerns with Mary Morgan (mary.morgan@nhs.net) to underpin her work in delivering the safe migration of the DCN and Sick Kids to the new site.

I am grateful to colleagues for sharing their questions and concerns about the current sites at Sciennes and the Western General over the winter periods and until migration is complete. I have asked the Board to provide a plan that demonstrates to me that the current sites will receive the necessary additional resource and maintenance to allow you to continue to deliver the high quality of service you are well known for, over the coming months until migration to the new site and taking account of the additional pressure that winter will bring. My officials have shared the questions and concerns you raised on Monday regarding the existing sites with Jackie Campbell, Chief Officer for Acute Services and these will be considered as part of the plan I have asked the Board to prepare. I want to encourage you to continue to raise any concerns or issues you have with your local management team who will make sure these are fed into the planning work the Board is undertaking. Some of those I met raised the positive opportunity that the current delay can present to further optimize how services for children and young people across Lothian are delivered both in the immediate period and in the longer term and I want to encourage you to also feed that into that planning work.

Finally, let me thank you again for your continued hard work to deliver a high quality and caring service and for your patience and resilience at this particular time.

I will continue to provide further updates as work progresses.



JEANE FREEMAN

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