

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Independent Review

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Review Update #3

4 November 2019

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Progress Update

The Review is currently on track to deliver a report by the end of spring 2020 and continues to work towards its goal of “establishing whether the design, build, commissioning and maintenance of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and Royal Hospital for Children (RHC) has had an adverse impact on the risk of Healthcare Associated Infection and whether there is wider learning for NHS Scotland.”

We expect engagement with stakeholders – members of the public, staff, management, civil servants, public representatives - to continue through the winter with statement taking. Document and evidence collection and assessment will continue until the end of March.

We intend to take forward a programme of public engagement to capture the opinions of current and past users at the QEUH. To avoid duplication of effort, these have paused until it is clear what type of engagement the new Public Inquiry (see below) will seek to take forward.

Review moves into its next phase

Over the last few months the Review team has been gathering a wide range of views, opinions and information relating to infection control and building design, construction commissioning/handover and maintenance at the QEUH. In doing so, we have gathered over 2500 documents which are being processed and considered for both their relevance and value.

While this work will continue for several more months, we have now moved into the next phase of our work. This involves the taking of statements from NHS employees, patients, and contractors who feel they have important information or experiences to share. **Anyone who wishes to come forward can still do so.**

The evidence sessions are completely confidential and involve witnesses providing information that form statements to the co-Chairs, where they tell of their experiences and highlight any concerns. The co-Chairs will ask questions, but at no time are witnesses cross-examined or put under any pressure.

Our initial focus will be on infection control and prevention at the hospital until the end of the year. Thereafter, we intend to move on to aspects relating to the building in the new year.

If you think you could add to the review's understanding of the issues that surround its remit and would like to offer evidence, please contact the Review team, in confidence, by email at information@queenelizabethhospitalreview.scot

The Review and new Public Inquiry

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport announced that there will be a Public Inquiry into the problems at the new Edinburgh Children and Young People's Hospital and the QEUH. This may have left some people questioning the ongoing importance of the Independent Review.

The co-Chairs recently took time to explain how the QEUH Independent Review continues to play a key role.

Dr Fraser explained that *"the prime focus of the Review is about whether the way the hospitals have been built is causing problems with infection control which, in turn, is impacting on patient safety and overall outcomes. The Review will publish its report in spring 2020 and will set out any issues it has found and recommend ways of addressing them so that both of the new Glasgow children's and adult hospitals are facilities which offer high quality modern healthcare creating opportunities to deliver the best possible outcomes"*

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Dr Montgomery added *"The Review team do not know at this stage the extent to which the Public Inquiry will focus on infection control issues at these two hospitals. The terms of reference have not been announced, therefore the Review will proceed as planned"* He added *"If the Public Inquiry does focus on similar matters at the QEUH and RHC, the experience of other Public Inquiries suggests that it might take some time before the Inquiry completes and publishes its recommendation and findings"*

Both co-Chairs consider that the QEUH Review will help everyone understand any contributory factors that lie behind several adverse events, restore public confidence in the two hospitals and ensure that any infection control issues arising from the built environment are dealt with. It will also be good for staff working at the hospital to

know that they are working in a high quality environment, which meets the needs of both their clinical work and their patients.

Review Team on Site



Patients and staff at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital may have recently seen the QEUH Review team on site at the hospital. The delegation, comprising both co-Chairs, their buildings expert adviser Professor Billy Hare, as well as other key personnel from the Review team, were visiting areas of the building which had been linked to adverse events as well as exploring the numerous plant rooms which supply the hospital with its water and purified air. The team also

inspected the helicopter landing areas to understand air flows relating to aircraft down drafts, and any relationship to air inlets and other facilities.

Professor Hare said following the visit *"this is clearly a very expansive and complex building requiring sophisticated treatment and processing facilities. I have been struck by the enormity and scale of the site and was impressed by the technical knowledge of the staff responsible who maintain it - who clearly are passionate about ensuring the facilities operate as intended"*.

Dr Fraser said *"The visit today has helped us familiarise ourselves with the hospital and will provide valuable context when we consider evidence we continue to gather relating to infection control measures in the hospital"*.

Further visits to the hospital are planned in the coming months.

Contacting the Review

The co-Chairs of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Independent Review are keen to ensure all representative groups with an interest in the operation of the hospital are fully engaged with our work and have the opportunity to make representations.

The co-Chairs are conscious that there are several other reviews underway where individuals may have already provided input. Nevertheless, they consider that it is essential that all interested parties have an opportunity to have their say, and highlight any concerns they might have.

Should you or anyone you know wish to highlight any concerns relevant to the Review, you can contact the Review team by email at: information@queenelizabethhospitalreview.scot

or by post:

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Independent Review, PO Box 27152, Glasgow,
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Or, should you wish to contact us anonymously, you can raise your concerns using
the “report a concern tool” found on our website.

www.queenelizabethhospitalreview.scot/index.html

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