

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Independent Review

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Review Update #2

6 September 2019

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- Terms of Reference update
- Review Experts announced
- Visit to local wastewater treatment site

Progress Summary

Since the last newsletter the Review team has continued to gather and assess evidence and engage with key people and organisations.

Following a period of public consultation, which ended on 9 August, we are today announcing our working Terms of Reference. We are also announcing the appointment of two advisors on infection control. We will also briefly discuss our recent visit to the Shieldhall wastewater treatment site which is close to the QEUH.

Working Terms of Reference

Following the launch of the Review on 27 June 2019, the consultation period for comments on the Terms of Reference has now ended and a working version of the Terms of Reference has been agreed by the Co-Chairs.

The Terms of Reference set out the scope and approach of the Review and it is the job of the Review to fulfil the Terms of Reference. There are two changes to the Terms of Reference following the consultation exercise. Both changes are additions to the section of the Terms of Reference entitled "Scope of the Review". The additions are highlighted **in bold** below:

Scope of the Review

1. The new QEUH and RHC buildings on the greater QEUH campus site;
2. The governance processes in place to oversee the project as it moved through the phases of design, build, commissioning and maintenance with particular regard to issues relating to infection prevention and control;
3. The extent to which decision makers took account of infection prevention and control issues at each phase;
4. The overall design of QEUH/RHC with particular reference to **site selection**, the safety of water systems, drainage systems and ventilation systems – general and specialised;

5. Whether at all stages of design, build, commissioning and maintenance, the built environment complied with relevant legislation, standards, recommendations and guidance relating to infection prevention and control **that applied at that time**;
6. If changes to the specification occurred, whether issues relating to infection prevention and control were considered and addressed appropriately;
7. Whether the hospital has been utilised in a way that differs from the original design intentions and whether this has compromised the delivery of optimal conditions for infection prevention and control.

In point 4, the selection of the site for the hospital has been added to the Terms of Reference as this is undoubtedly something which concerns a number of people who have spoken to the Review. We will therefore investigate this.

In point 5, we have clarified that we will be looking at all stages of the building process and ensure that these met the legislation, standards and guidance which applied at that time. This was always our intention and this addition is to clarify this part of the Terms of Reference. It would not make sense to apply current legislation, standards or guidance and it would be inherently unfair.

The co-Chairs will continue to keep the Terms of Reference under review. The Terms of Reference can still be amended or expanded so please email any comments you have to; information@queenelizabethhospitalreview.scot

While there may be similarities between issues arising at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People in Edinburgh, the Review will not be investigating this. We will however consider what can be learned from it.

The full terms of reference can be found on the website:

www.queenelizabethhospitalreview.scot/index.html

Review Experts announced

Two Leading specialists in advising on infection prevention and control in the UK have been appointed to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Independent Review.

Linda Dempster, who is a Registered Nurse and is the Head of Infection Prevention and Control at NHS Improvement and NHS England; and

Dr David Jenkins, a consultant in medical microbiology and director of Healthcare Infection Prevention Limited, with extensive experience in healthcare infection prevention based at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

Billy Hare, a Professor in Construction Management, and Deputy Director of the BEAM Research Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University, was appointed to the Review team in June 2019.

Visit to Shieldhall Wastewater treatment site



The Review has responded to concerns raised by a number of members of the public who have come forward to the Review about the siting of the new hospital next to a wastewater treatment site.

A number of members of the Review team, including the co-Chairs, visited the site to better understand the work that goes on there and to discuss any site conditions that might give rise to infection risks.

The site is a concern for members of the public because of the quite potent smell which is noticeable at the QEUH. Smell alone will not cause an infection risk but we felt that we should look into this and any associated issues. To date, nothing of concern has been uncovered.

A number of hospitals have been sited close to major wastewater treatment sites across Scotland over the years. This includes the former Southern General Hospital on which the QEUH now sits. The Shieldhall wastewater treatment site dates back to 1901.

A second visit is being planned in September to discuss monitoring data. The Review also plans to visit the local recycling facility.

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 Shieldhall wastewater treatment site has been located adjacent to the site of major hospital in Govan for over a century. However, clearly there are concerns relating to its proximity to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. If we are to fully address public confidence issues we would be remiss not to explore any health links associated with the site as part of our review”

The Co-Chairs are conscious that there are several other reviews underway where individuals may have already provided input. Nevertheless, the Co-Chairs 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, G2 9LX

Or, should you wish to contact us anonymously, you can raise your concerns using the “report a concern tool” found on our website.

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