

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Independent Review

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Review Update #4

10 February 2020

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Progress Update

A full programme of witness interviews and consideration of documents and the Christmas and New Year break has meant it is 3 months since the last newsletter. Over this period, issues at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) have appeared regularly in the media. Several other initiatives are playing their part in resolving matters relating to the hospital. We are ever more conscious of the work of the Review and the part it plays in addressing the matters of public concern. We remain focused to deliver a report on “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 ” in this evolving landscape.

Review concludes its infection control phase

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Review has now almost completed the first phase of statement taking which focused predominantly on infection prevention and control at the hospital.

This phase involved consideration of over 2500 infection control documents and reports and involved over 33 hours of interviews with healthcare staff within the NHS, as well as some of those patients and their families who have been affected.

This phase has given us valuable insights into the hospital’s operations and experiences of patients who have attended there and will help inform our next phase of work, which will focus on the building itself.

Discussions to shape Inquiry

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Jeane Freeman, announced in November 2019 that the Rt Honourable Lord Brodie, a prominent Scottish Judge with previous experience as Chairman of Medical Appeal Tribunals from 1991 to 1996, will lead a Public Inquiry into the issues at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow and the issues leading up to the decision to delay the opening of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People in Edinburgh.



Although the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry have yet to be announced, the co-Chairs of the Independent Review have been working with Lord Brodie to help inform the Inquiry and ensure it complements the work of the Review. Dr Andrew Fraser, co-Chair of the Review said *“we fully expect that our findings will feed into the Inquiry. However, it will ultimately be for Lord Brodie to determine the scope of his work. Nonetheless, we*

anticipate our work will assist the Inquiry by identifying areas of interest which may otherwise have taken substantial time for it to establish.”

An announcement on the Terms of Reference for the Public Inquiry is expected in the near future.

Four Month Plan

The Review is currently on track to deliver a report by the Spring 2020 and continues to work towards this timescale.

Over the next few months focus will be on gathering evidence related to the building itself. This will be an intensive phase of work, relying on our technical expert Billy Hare, a Professor in Construction Management at Glasgow Caledonian University, and teacher on construction management, and health and safety.

Subject to the availability of those we wish to interview, and dependent on access to relevant documents, we expect this phase of work to be completed around Easter.

Anyone who feels they have important information or experiences to share, particularly those involved in the construction, design or maintenance of the building are encouraged to come forward.

After Easter we anticipate a short period of reflection, where the co-Chairs will assess the significant amount of information that has been gathered by the Review. They will then begin preparing the main body of their report.

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, 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.

www.queenelizabethhospitalreview.scot/index.html

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