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Convener
Health and Sport Committee

By Email.

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UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCES

I am writing to inform the Committee that the significant work to improve patient safety including improvements to ventilation and fire enhancement at the Department of Clinical Neurosciences is now complete. This will now allow a phased move of services to begin from 11 May 2020, subject to discussion with removal companies and suppliers.

I want to highlight the significant work of the contractors who have continued to work on this project over the past couple of months. Their contribution alongside that of the staff of the Department Clinical of Neurosciences has allowed us to reach this important milestone of the project.

The existing site of the Department of Clinical Neuroscience at the Western General can be used to enhance Covid capacity for NHS Lothian. The phased move will see Outpatient Services, including Neurophysiology and Diagnostic Radiology, migrate along with a number of administrative support staff. The plan of migration has been agreed with the full involvement of clinical teams and includes a commitment to revisit the timescale for the move of Inpatient Services and Interventional Neuroradiology. This has been paused for the time being to allow the Department of Clinical Neurosciences critical care teams to support the NHS Lothian Covid-19 response at the Western General Hospital. I continue to expect the NHS Lothian Senior Team to support staff to move to the new site, and continue to deliver the highest quality care to the patients of NHS Lothian.

We continue to work to the timescale of moving the full hospital into the new site in Autumn 2020. I will continue to keep the Parliament updated on the progress of these timescales.

JEANE FREEMAN

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