

Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee

By Email.

15th January 2021

Dear Lewis

UPDATE ON ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

I informed the Committee in May 2020 that COVID-19 may adversely affect the timeline for fully opening the new Royal Hospital for Children and Young People. I initially confirmed that work would be complete by 25 January 2021, however there has been unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 to both clinical services and the construction industry. I wish to inform the committee that the completion of works will now be 8 February 2021.

While this is disappointing, let us not overlook the significant progress has been made, since I took the decision to halt the move to the new site in July 2019 in the interest of patient safety.

Outpatient Services at the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, including Neurophysiology and Diagnostic Radiology, moved into the new site in May 2020 as planned. The final phase of the move for the DCN took place in mid-July 2020, this saw inpatient Neurosurgery and Neurology wards, along with Neurosurgery Theatres and Interventional Neuro-Radiology relocate to their new home. All DCN services are now fully delivered from the new site.

From July, a number of children's outpatient services moved to the new Hospital. This phased approach saw some Children's outpatient services, including Neurology and Orthopaedics, migrate along with a number of administrative support staff.

I am also pleased to confirm that Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services moved to the new site on the 15th of January 2021.

This approach, which had been agreed with the full involvement of clinical teams and staff side representatives, not only frees up space at the existing Royal Hospital for Sick Children site, but enables NHS Lothian to continue to deliver quality paediatric clinics adhering and supporting social distancing.

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I want to record my thanks to all those involved in this project who have allowed us to get to the current position with a number of services now delivered on the new site. The work has continued to ensure we deliver a safe hospital and that will remain the priority of this project till it is completed on the 8th of February 2021.

JEANE FREEMAN

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