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Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email

11th June 2019

Dear Lewis

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital - Review

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2019. My responses to your questions about the Independent Review of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital are detailed below.

The Review's Terms of Reference have been drafted, and in line with the Britton Report the Independent Chairs will be seeking feedback on those, starting from Thursday 27 June. However, the fact that the Terms of Reference have not been agreed does not mean that the Review is not under way. From the date of their appointment, the Independent Chairs Dr Brian Montgomery and Dr Andrew Fraser have progressed the work of the Review. They have read a considerable amount of documentation and consulted extensively, have sought advice from experts from different fields, have worked to establish facilities and systems to enable stakeholders to contact the Review with evidence, and have drafted the Terms of Reference on which to seek feedback to ensure the Review remains correctly focussed.

Discussions are ongoing with various individuals who may provide advice to the Review on infection control and microbiology. I am informed that the Chairs of the Review wish to reassure the Committee that they recognise the need to avoid any conflicts when seeking expert advice and assistance. In particular, I am informed that this has underpinned their communications with those in the infection control/microbiological specialist fields.

As you know, I expect the review to be timely, but given its independence the Chairs will require freedom to ensure all material issues are reviewed and reported on. I will of course ensure the Committee is kept up to date as appropriate; in addition the Independent Review team would be best placed to give you precise information on their work, and are contactable at information@queenelizabethhospitalreview.scot.

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I can assure the Committee that consideration of building design, commissioning and construction were key components of the Review as I commissioned it in January this year, and that they remain key areas of focus.

I trust this is helpful.



JEANE FREEMAN

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