

Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee

By Email.

12 March 2020

Dear Lewis

UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCES

I am writing to inform you of an update to the progress of opening the Department of Clinical Neurosciences in Edinburgh. When I halted the move to the new site of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and Department of Clinical Neurosciences, it was in the interest of patient safety. NHS Lothian were escalated to level 4 on the escalation framework with regards to the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and Department of Clinical Neurosciences.

I appointed Mary Morgan as Senior Programme Director, Mary reports to Government through the Programme Oversight Board and has continued to work to deliver a safe site. The Programme Director and NHS Lothian have continued to work positively with contractors to address the actions identified the compliance reports undertaken by NSS, which were subsequently published in 2019 following my decision to delay the move.

This progress has resulted in NHS Lothian being able to confirm an intended draft timetable where they intend to transfer services for the Department of Clinical Neurosciences to the new building from Monday 25th May for completion by 31 May 2020. There are still some key risks to this timetable, not least the ongoing programme of work associated with Covid-19, however I thought it would be helpful to provide you with the current a high level planning assumptions.

The Programme Director and Programme Oversight Board chaired by the Chief Nursing Officer, will continue to work with clinical staff and the Area Partnership Forum to closely monitor works completion up to that date and to mitigate any works that may be outstanding.

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

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot