

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on future configuration of Emergency Department Services in Belfast

I would like to invite you to participate in the public consultation on the future organisation of Emergency Department services in the Belfast area which was announced by the Health Minister Edwin Poots on Tuesday, 5 February 2013.

The Health and Social Care Board is leading the public consultation and is committed to ensuring that Emergency Department services delivered in Belfast are safe and sustainable into the future where highly skilled clinical teams can provide a high quality service for patients.

The consultation document considers a number of options for the future configuration of Emergency Department services. The preferred and recommended option proposed is that Emergency Department services should be delivered at the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Mater Hospital. Under this option, direct access to the Belfast City Hospital would be available for patients who have been assessed by their GP as requiring medical assessment or admission to hospital without the need to go via an Emergency Department. These arrangements would be complemented by the enhancement of acute care at home with 24/7 nursing in the community and a range of specialist support to the primary care teams.

The consultation document together with a Summary document and an online Response Form can be accessed on the HSCB website - www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult. The Equality Impact Assessment is also available online. The consultation will end on Friday, 10 May 2013.

How Can I respond?

There are a number of ways that you can respond and these include:

- Online Response Form which can be found at:
www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult
- Email: EDConsultation@hscni.net
- Written: Belfast Emergency Department Consultation,
Health and Social Care Board
12-22 Linenhall Street,
Belfast
BT2 8BS

Response proformas are available at the following web address:
www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult and can be sent via email or post.

If you require a printed copy of the consultation documentation or in an alternative format, please contact:

Telephone: 02890 960069 or

Text phone: 02890 566755

The consultation will last for 13 weeks and will end at 5.00 pm on Friday, 10 May 2013. All responses must be received by this date.

What happens after the consultation?

Following the end of the consultation period, the Health and Social Care Board will make recommendations to the Health Minister for a final decision.

If you would like more information or wish to meet with representatives from the Health and Social Care Board and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, please let me know.

I look forward to your views on this important consultation.

Yours sincerely



Dean Sullivan
Director of Commissioning