

**19:05:33 From FACILITATOR Maire McGrath to Eamonn Harrigan  
WHSC(TDirect Message):**

Hi Eamon Julie-Ann needs muted and do you want to make Siobhan and I co-host

**19:12:10 From Josephine Deehan to Everyone:**

Josephine Deehan, GP Omagh

**19:12:21 From Venessa Harte to Everyone:**

Venessa Harte Teemore

**19:12:24 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

Julie-Ann McCaffrey, Monea

**19:12:32 From Mairaid Kelly to Everyone:**

By this stage you should be quite clear that the vast majority of people in Fermanagh, Omagh and beyond are opposed to the suspension of emergency service at the SWAH - what's the point in us all telling you that yet again if you don't have any concrete plans to reinstate the service?

**19:12:33 From Shona to Everyone:**

Shona Morrison from Lisbellaw.

**19:12:35 From Caoímhe McNeill (she/her) to Everyone:**

Caoimhe McNeill, Policy Organiser with UNISON

**19:12:37 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

Hi Anthea from Lisnaskea area. Here as user of SWAH.

**19:12:55 From Erin Britton to Everyone:**

Erin Britton enniskillen

**19:13:09 From J Walker to Everyone:**

Walker household Newtownbutler user of SWAH

**19:16:54 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Tom White, Belcoo.

**19:17:12 From Margaret read to Everyone:**

Margaret Read Lisnaskea user of swah

**19:17:32 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

Will the recording be made available to all participants in this zoom consultation session?

**19:17:44 From Mairaid Kelly to Everyone:**

Reacted to "Will the recording b..." with 👍

**19:17:55 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

Reacted to "Will the recording b..." with 👍

**19:18:01 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

Removed a 👍 reaction from "Will the recording b..."

**19:18:29 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

And that the questions are answered with courtesy also

**19:19:00 From Eamonn Harrigan WHSCT to Everyone:**

Replying to "Will the recording b..."

The link will be uploaded on the WHSCT website. As it is 2 hours long we are unable to email

**19:19:53 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

Replying to "Will the recording b..."

Thank you. When will it be made available?

**19:21:05 From FACILITATOR Maire McGrath to Everyone:**

Presenting Panel members this evening are Brendan Lavery, Medical Director, Teresa Molloy, Director of Performance and Service Improvement & CEO and Panel Chair, Neil Guickan.

**19:22:06 From Shona to Everyone:**

Did you ever investigate and address the reasons for the resignations?

**19:22:22 From Brónach McMonagle, WHSCT to Everyone:**

Replying to "Will the recording b..."

Our comms team will upload to webpage. This should be over the next week

**19:24:37 From Venessa Harte to Everyone:**

What about people living on Cavan border? Why does the Western trust think that hospitals in the Republic should be responsible for the taxpayers here?? If you have visited Sligo hospital it is under huge pressure???

**19:25:35 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Was first slide incorrect ? Talked about Oct2022 and EGS rota but was on risk register from October 2021. What was the Trust doing since Oct 2021 when problem was identified and on Boards Risk Register at board meetings ?

**19:29:04 From Cathy Malcolm to Everyone:**

Apologies for being late us there an opportunity to ask questions or is it within the chat?

**19:29:04 From Shona to Everyone:**

How long do you foresee this "temporary" change lasting?

**19:29:37 From M to Everyone:**

Can you explain the recruitment process, were agencies used, and where were they looking?

**19:30:16 From Brónach McMonagle, WHSCT to Everyone:**

Replying to "Apologies for being ..."

Cathy, questions will be taken via the chat to ensure we get through as many as possible. There will be a few questions taken at the end of each session if time allows.

**19:31:20 From Brónach McMonagle, WHSCT to Everyone:**

Replying to "Can you explain the ..."

Hello you are coming up as M would you like us to put your name on up?

**19:31:29 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

1. Despite assurances in the consultation documentation and in response to questions raised at each of the consultation meetings by representatives from the trust, at the last online consultation meeting, it was stated by Mr Lavery that Gynaecology will be impacted for complex cases. What are these complex cases? Why is the consultation document misinforming consultees in suggesting that there will be no changes?

2. In the Southern Trust consultation on emergency general surgery, there is reference to surgeons travelling to Daisy Hill if the patient requires immediate surgical input and is not fit to travel. What will happen patients of the SWAH who require immediate surgical input and are not fit to travel?

**19:33:17 From Shona to Everyone:**

How come WHSCT couldn't save general surgery but able to set up the elective overnight hub relatively quickly? Was this the unsaid plan all along? Why did Mark Taylor only come down for 2 days rather than the full week?

**19:34:50 From Shona to Everyone:**

How can you say SWAH maintains its acute status when apart from those 10 elective patients, children's and maternity, the rest of the hospital is essentially a nursing home waiting for packages of care to be put in place?

**19:36:49 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

Does the Trust accept that age is a significant factor in increasing the need for emergency general surgery within a population? Has an assessment been completion of the age demographic of those within the Fermanagh Omagh area and impact of removal of emergency general surgery on those citizens?

**19:36:54 From Tom White to Everyone:**

I see average figures still being used for admissions etc. despite me raising this issue in Belcoo and Mark Gillespie agreeing that average figures are not correct stats for showing system capacity. What is the mode and what is the peak usage ? I was told or understood those figures would be available. Q> Has anyone been told to make their own way from SWAH to Derry ?

**19:37:13 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

Reacted to "I see average figure..." with 👍

**19:37:24 From John McMahon to Everyone:**

If it is going to be so difficult to reinstate Emergency Surgery, why is the Trust still referring to this as a temporary cessation of the service? Are they proactively trying to reinstate the service?

**19:37:47 From Shona to Everyone:**

Reacted to "If it is going to be..." with ❤️

**19:39:06 From Venessa Harte to Everyone:**

What training have the staff in the private ambulances?

**19:39:12 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Communication/Engagement ? Why is the Trust late in answering every single one of my information requests ? Some are outstanding since before Xmas. Consultation without information is meaningless.

**19:39:16 From Mairaid Kelly to Everyone:**

Reacted to "If it is going to be..." with ❤️

**19:40:19 From FACILITATOR Maire McGrath to Everyone:**

Thank you everyone for your questions and comments so far; please keep them coming.

**19:40:41 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

Why are you still using the word “temporary” suspension of EGS when Brendan has just confirmed that the trust’s vision is that it is to become into an elective surgery overnight centre??

**19:41:06 From Josephine Deehan to Everyone:**

Re job ads for consultant surgeons-what changes if any were made to job descriptions/ terms of service/ incentives to attract surgeons to SWAH?

**19:41:50 From Cathy Malcolm to Everyone:**

Could I please ask a question re service user involvement? Thanks

**19:41:58 From Tom White to Everyone:**

I submitted questions on paper after Belcoo event on behalf of myself and my wife and neither of us have received an answer ?

**19:42:43 From Brónach McMonagle, WHSCT to Everyone:**

Replying to "Could I please ask a..."

cathy if you write your questions in the chat box we will do our best to get it answered

**19:42:51 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

Have they advertised extensively abroad with appropriate package for applicants?

**19:43:49 From Shona to Everyone:**

When neonatal in SWAH was temporarily removed, we didn’t have any consultations and it returned so what’s different here that one is needed?

**19:44:16 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

Can AAH surgeons cover SWAH on rostered basis?

**19:44:23 From Caoímhe McNeill (she/her) to Everyone:**

1. What are the conditions needed that would lead to this “temporary” suspension being lifted? If, as it has been said tonight, this is going to be incredibly difficult how are the public and staff expected to trust that this is only a temporary suspension?

2. Was there an options appraisal and can that be made publicly available?

3. Does Altnagelvin really have the capacity for this? They, like all hospitals, are under enormous pressure. I note the consultation document states that there will be beds reserved in Altnagelvin, how many is this per day? What happens if all Altnagelvin beds are in use, and someone there needs emergency general surgery and there are free beds in the "SWAH reserved beds" Common sense would indicate that they of course would be given their surgery but then what happens if someone later arrives that would have gone to SWAH?

4. With the Elective Overnight stay centre, I note the consultation document states that consultants will travel to perform surgery. If a patient has compli

**19:45:21 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Is there a legal duty on the Trust to implement the Review on General Surgery in Northern Ireland ? Simple yes or no ? Legal requirement ?

**19:46:21 From M to Everyone:**

Which countries specifically are these agents targeting?

**19:46:38 From Mairaid Kelly to Everyone:**

In London many public sector employers pay an additional weighting on salaries in recognition of the higher costs of living for certain posts. What incentives can you include in terms of salary offering for jobs in SWAH reflecting the need to fill these posts in the public interest?

**19:48:04 From John McMahon to Everyone:**

In that there was an early alert to DoH in August 2020 re staffing challenges, why did WHSCT not consult on potential options prior to the "temporary" removal of emergency general surgery?

**19:48:55 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Sorry Teresa SWAH may have been future proofed and have capacity and the Trust have a duty to use resources as best they can but PRIMARY reason for SWAH build in its location was to provide Services locally.. Services that are now moving to non-local. What is the Trusts duty to provide Services locally ?

**19:49:24 From Mairaid Kelly to Everyone:**

Reacted to "In that there was an..." with ❤️

**19:50:21 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

How are they addressing the concerns from obstetricians if emergency C-sections have complication that require general surgeon?

This will also affect pregnant ladies choice of hospital for safe delivery of her baby.

**19:50:50 From Maria to Everyone:**

Why the elective centre work implemented in SWAH have not been send for consultation prior being implemented?

**19:51:52 From Shona to Everyone:**

If general surgeons don't exist anymore, then why are you trying to recruit them rather than advertise for upper and lower GI surgeons in the numbers required?

**19:51:58 From Caoímhe McNeill (she/her) to Everyone:**

Have there been any serious incidents and/or near misses in the time this has been implemented?

**19:54:37 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

What is the actual time it takes from decision patient needs emergency surgery to actually getting that patient to the theatre table in AAH?

**19:54:40 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

May I ask that the questions are addressed to the panel in order on submission (appreciating grouping may be needed) as some questions are following on from responses. Please see my initial questions.

**19:57:19 From Shona to Everyone:**

When if the next surgeon coming down to SWAH for elective surgery? Is it going to be a constant rolling system Monday to Friday or just two days a month?

**19:57:23 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

What are the contingency plans for patients not fit for travel or bad weather conditions on a extremely dangerous road?

**19:57:47 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

If the patient is unfit to travel, what is the proposal? The panel is not answering the question.

**19:58:37 From Cathy Malcolm to Everyone:**

I would like if there is time to respond to Teresa's points made on communication and service user involvement?

**19:58:55 From Brónach McMonagle, WHSCT to Everyone:**

Replying to "I submitted question..."

tom our team collated these questions which will be uploaded to the consultaiton webpage. can you send through your email address and i will correspond to you seperately. thanks, Brónach PPI Lead

**19:59:52 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Yes please why no consultation ?

**20:02:25 From John McMahon to Everyone:**

Will the Trust publicly commit to reinstating EGS at the SWAH by the end of 2023?

**20:02:53 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

Please confirm that the rural needs assessment has not been updated during the consultation process. It does not appear to have been updated online.

**20:04:03 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Our contact details with emails were on the questions

**20:04:04 From Venessa Harte to Everyone:**

What about the Cavan border

**20:05:13 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

I ask again: Despite assurances in the consultation documentation and in response to questions raised at each of the consultation meetings by representatives from the trust, at the last online consultation meeting, it was stated by Mr Lavery that Gynaecology will be impacted for complex cases. What are these complex cases? Why is the consultation document misinforming consultees in stressing that there will be no changes?

**20:05:42 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

When do they plan to publish statistics on so called better outcomes for the rural population here? This needs to include all those identified as needing emergency surgery and those actually receiving it.

**20:06:45 From Caoímhe McNeill (she/her) to Everyone:**

Is there Trade Union representation on the Project Board?

**20:06:48 From Mairaid Kelly to Everyone:**

Reacted to "Will the Trust publi..." with ❤️

**20:06:51 From Shona to Everyone:**

How much is being spent on private ambulances? I'm up at SWAH often and it's common to see 2/3 sitting outside with staff in them doing nothing. I assume they're waiting but often they're there for an hour plus with no work being done

**20:09:17 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

Patients on private ambulances can deteriorate quickly- such staff need to be adequately trained and resources on board to deal with rapid deterioration of patients.

**20:10:09 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**



Are they going to work with road service to upgrade the very poor road from SWAH to AAH?

**20:10:59 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Sorry this change may be 'unplanned' but it was not unforeseen. In fact the cynic may say it was dictated via pathfinder.

**20:11:16 From Shona to Everyone:**

Surely it's not a real consultation if the decision to halt emergency surgery had been taken before the consultation. If recruitment was such an issue for so long, then how could you not foresee this issue and consult then instead of informing the public after it had happened - that's hardly the definition of consultation

**20:12:58 From Brónach McMonagle, WHSCT to Everyone:**

Replying to "I submitted question..."

I will check back on this tomorrow and communicate with you.

**20:13:28 From John McMahon to Everyone:**

There is mention in the consultation document of a Pathway to Craigavon AH. If they are expected to take on additional patients from Daisy Hill, had there been an assessment of their capability to accept even more patients referred from the SWAH>

**20:13:45 From Tom White to Everyone:**

thanks

**20:16:02 From Shona to Everyone:**

I know of someone who had a transverse lie baby with low lying placenta which was discovered when she went into labor. She was an emergency c-section which was complete within 40 minutes. She was told if it had happened without emergency cover, that little boy who is now 18 would be born dead.

**20:16:29 From Josephine Deehan to Everyone:**

Will the loss of emergency surgery from SWAH adversely affect the recruitment of consultants in other specialties eg emergency medicine, obstetrics, general medicine? If so, this may affect the future viability of SWAH as an acute hospital. Have you considered this ?

**20:18:52 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

Are NIAS implementing triage of patients well ie are they getting patients to adequate hospital? Rather than dropping at SWAH and wasting valuable time for patients.

**20:21:09 From Julie-Ann McCaffrey to Everyone:**

There appears to be a gradual depletion of services from the SWAH. Why are a significant number of services being moved to Omagh from SWAH? For example, D&C?

**20:24:35 From Maria to Everyone:**

What part of Regional Standards SWAH isn't able to deliver?

**20:24:54 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

Would anyone on the panel like to live in this postcode region, where lifesaving treatment is a lottery?

**20:35:37 From Maria to Everyone:**

Was air ambulance ever considered to transfer patients between hospitals?

**20:43:34 From Venessa Harte to Everyone:**

Disgrace same with other jobs N.Ireland lowest paid

**20:47:11 From Anthea McDonnell to Everyone:**

Have the trust advertised abroad for surgeons?

**20:50:49 From Oliver Kelly (WHSCT) to Everyone:**

Thanks Cathy I will link with Ciaran within the Comms team and bring this learning across. We did plan the ED campaign over an extended period of time and are hoping to engage in more of this type of work with service users going forward

**20:51:15 From Tom White to Everyone:**

one of my wife's issues was around accessibility to the Consultation and the 'hard coding' and wording of the questions to be answered.

**20:53:19 From Tom White to Everyone:**

Why no consultation on the new elective centre ? Are the trust going to hold a consultation post implementation of a decision AGAIN? or is this just virtue signalling from Trust/Prof Taylor because of need of good news ?

**20:54:03 From Brónach McMonagle, WHSCT to Everyone:**

we will theme the questions from the chat box an make these available as part of the outcomes report. thank you all

**20:54:22 From Venessa Harte to Everyone:**

Only addressed Sligo and Donegal side what about Cavan side