

13th November 2025

To: Mr. Neil Guckian, Chief Executive, Western Health and Social Care Trust
Cc: Dr. Tom Frawley, Chairman, Western Health and Social Care Trust

Open Letter: Meeting with WHSCT on 21st November 2025

Dear Chief Executive,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 6th November.

Save Our Acute Service's purpose is the urgent restoration of emergency surgery along with the co-dependent specialisms needed to provide a sustainable surgical service.

In an unprecedented intervention, the Minister for Health asked you to act quickly to restore confidence by producing a vision plan for SWAH. Our mandate is for the urgent restoration of emergency surgery as set out in our Roadmap – this should be the cornerstone of any SWAH vision plan.

Agenda

The meeting was originally convened to respond to the questions raised in our letter of 28th July – which the Trust itself confirmed in writing on 17th October. Your recent revision of the agenda constitutes a unilateral shifting of the goalposts which is not acceptable. SOAS proposes the original agreed agenda.

Openness and Transparency

The Trust's reluctance to facilitate openness can only further erode public confidence. In the interest of transparency, and to uphold the rights of our community, our public expects this engagement to be live streamed.

SOAS is extremely disappointed that the Trust Chairman will not attend. Given recent regulatory scrutiny and the vital importance of Board-level accountability, it is essential that non-executive directors, including the Chair, participate and are seen to provide visible scrutiny and oversight.

Having agreed the use of the Council Chamber, we firmly reject your assertion that the Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council would not be independent.

With unprecedented public support, SOAS's mandate is clear – urgent restoration of emergency surgery. Lives are at risk. The public agree that our Roadmap provides the basis for the vision for SWAH. Our participation must not be mistaken for approval or endorsement of delays.

We remain open to meet with the Trust on 21st November based on the agenda identified in this letter. Our community expects and deserves nothing less.

Yours sincerely

Helen Hamill (secretary)

SOAS Committee