

Core brief

17 September 2019

Investigation into issues at RHCYP and QEUH

The Scottish Government has announced a Public Inquiry into the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (NHS Lothian) and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital sites. Their release, together with a statement from the Chief Executive, follows.

Scottish Government release: Public inquiry into hospital sites

A public inquiry will be held to examine issues at the new Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP) and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) sites following recent concerns from affected parents over safety and wellbeing.

The inquiry will determine how vital issues relating to ventilation and other key building systems occurred, and what steps can be taken to prevent this being repeated in future projects.

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said: “The safety and well-being of all patients and their families is my top priority and should be the primary consideration in all NHS construction projects.

“I want to make sure this is the case for all future projects, which is why, following calls from affected parents, I am announcing a public inquiry to examine the new Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital sites.

“The recent KPMG and NSS reports into the new Edinburgh Children’s Hospital will provide a significant amount of the underpinning evidence for the inquiry alongside the ongoing independent review into the delivery and maintenance of the QEUH.

“The current situation is not one anyone would choose – but it is one I am determined to resolve.”

Statement from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Jane Grant, Chief Executive of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, said: “It is of utmost importance that our patients and their families have confidence in our services and that we are able to assure them that high standards of care are being provided within a suitable environment.

“Since the hospitals opened in 2015, we have taken a number of measures to improve the hospital environment for our most vulnerable patients and further action is underway.

“Questions, however, have continued to be raised about the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Children.

“We therefore will support the Public Inquiry announced today and will make a full contribution to this, in addition to the external and internal reviews of the hospital that are ongoing.”

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