

31 January 2024

Trust Board, Visits, Staff Remote Working, Beechcroft Vacancies & Self Harm Across All Trust Facilities

1. A copy of log in which the Trust website was updated with the agenda for the public meeting the 11th January 2024. The date and time please.

Please see attached.

2. As the 1st January 2024 what percentage of the Trust workforce continue to work from home and how many of those are working remotely from outside of Northern Ireland?

This information would only be available on the basis of requests to access 365 services from outside UK & Ireland, however we are unable to provide this information.

The information requested in this FOI request is exempt from release under Section 31 and Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

These are both qualified exemptions and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

- a) Leave Belfast Trust, patients, clients & staff more vulnerable to crime (Section 31);
- b) Pose a significant threat to the integrity & operation of the digital systems on which the day-to-day business of the Trust relies (Section 43).

Section 31 – Law Enforcement Section

Section 31(1)(a) states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more vulnerable to crime. It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime

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Section 43 – Commercial Interests

Section 43(2) states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). Disclosure of the requested information would leave the Belfast Trusts digital infrastructure at significant risk of cyber security attack. This would compromise the Belfast Trusts ability to provide Health & Care Services and carry on business-as usual should the digital systems be compromised.

3. What proposed changes has the Chairman planned for the Trust and what difficulties has he encountered with making these changes?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust delivers a wide range of essential public healthcare services to people across the Belfast area and also provides regional services to the wider Northern Ireland population. The Chair has a particular leadership role to champion and oversee the work of the Trust Board responsible for ensuring the effective governance of a large and complex organisation.

The recently appointed Chair looks forward to help to shape and drive the delivery of essential health and social care services and to make a positive difference to the lives of people served by the Belfast Trust. The Chairman continues to enjoy working positively with his colleague Non-Executive Directors and Trust staff at all levels to make a difference to the lives of those in Belfast and beyond served by the Belfast Trust.

4. Has the Trust now got its full complement of Non-Executive Directors and are they fully trained?

The Trust's Standing Orders indicate in relation to the composition of the Trust Board, the following:

2.1 Composition of the Membership of the Trust Board

In accordance with the Health and Social Services Trusts (Membership and Procedure) Regulations (N.I.) 1994 the composition of the Board shall be:

- (1) The Chairman of the Trust (Appointed by the DoH Public Appointments Unit);
- (2) Up to 7 non-executive members (appointed by the DoH Public Appointments Unit);
- (3) Up to 5 executive members (but not exceeding the number of Non-Executive members) including:
 - the Chief Executive;

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- the Director of Finance;

The Trust Board shall have not less than 8 members (unless otherwise determined by the Minister for Health and set out in the Trust's Establishment Order or such other communication from DHSS&PS).

As at 20 January 2024 the following Non-Executive Directors are in post in addition to the Chairman of the Trust Board.

Mr John Conaghan
Mrs Patricia Gordon
Professor Carmel Hughes
Mr Joe McVey
Professor Catherine Ross
Mr Gordon Smyth

In addition, Mr David Small will join the Trust Board from 1 February 2024.

Mr Small's appointment will take the number of non-executive directors to seven, the maximum number as per paragraph 2.1 (2) above.

The Trust's number of Non-Executive Directors is, and will be compliant with, the requirements of the Standing Orders.

All of the Non-Executive Directors have been appointed through the Public Appointments Unit, and bring a range of knowledge, skills and experience to their role.

In accordance with the Public Appointments Office there are specific training requirements of recently appointed Non-Executive Directors and the Trust is engaged in facilitating that training, in addition to other training which is considered may be helpful to the new Non-Executive Directors in their respective roles.

5. How many safety quality visits across each hospital and community site was missed during 2023?

21 visits had to be rescheduled due to competing demands of those involved during 2023.

6. On what dates during 2023 did any Senior Executive Team member or non-Executive Director visit Beechcroft mental health unit?

9 February 2023
26 June 2023
6 July 2023
17 August 2023

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7. Currently how many vaccines are there at Beechcroft mental health unit?

There are 52.7 vacancies (not vaccines)

8. How many incidents of Self-Harm was reported across all Trust facilities between the 18th December 2023 till the 3rd January 2024?

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