

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2022 13:59
To: Armstrong, Brian; Boyd, Stephen
Cc: Dalzell, Bronagh
Subject: Jeffery Donaldson comments

Hello Brian and Stephen,

Further to our discussion earlier about the comment of Sir Jeffery Donaldson, I have drafted a line below in case we need to use it. DOH Officials have asked us to prepare in this way in case these claims are repeated for electioneering purposes.

STARTS

Belfast Trust can find no evidence to substantiate these claims. Access to drugs and equipment is not an issue of concern and is not a contributory factor to the delay of any surgeries or procedures.

ENDS

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Belfast Trust

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of PublicLiaison-SM
Sent: 01 November 2022 12:29
To: DONALDSON, Jeffrey
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

Categories: Acknowledgement

Sir Jeffrey

Thanks for your response.

I'll look into your query below and come back to you with a reply as soon as possible.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

[REDACTED]



 Belfast Health and
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From: DONALDSON, Jeffrey <jeffrey.donaldson.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 30 October 2022 18:31
To: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk>
Subject: FW: Good Morning Ulster

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for being in touch about this.

For clarity, I am informed that the initial problem arose in the Southern Trust as a result of a cardiac unit being unable to access parts for an angiogram device, thus resulting in the cancellation of certain procedures for a number of their cardiac patients. I am informed that these patients were then referred on to an acute hospital in Belfast

(RVH I believe) for the procedures they needed. As a result of the initial problem in the Southern Trust, the patients inevitably experienced a significant and worrying delay in having their stents fitted at the Belfast based hospital. I am clear that none of this was the fault of the Belfast Trust.

As I understand it, the problem was that the Southern Trust were unable to obtain the parts for the angiogram device from their normal supplier in GB and had to wait for three weeks to have the parts shipped from an alternative supplier in Germany. To clear up any confusion, can you please confirm that the Belfast Trust did indeed receive a number of additional referrals from the Southern HSC Trust for patients requiring procedures to have stents fitted as a result of these procedures not being available in the Southern Trust for a limited period. I assure you that I have no desire to drag either of the Trusts into this and will be clear about what has happened, but there is a public interest in knowing about this kind of difficulty so that a longer term solution can be found that avoids such a situation in the future.

Kind regards,

Jeffrey

Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP
Lagan Valley

From: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Sent: 28 October 2022 15:18
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk>
Subject: Good Morning Ulster

Dear [REDACTED]

As per our telephone conversation a few moments ago, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson raised today on Good Morning Ulster, his concern that patients in a large Belfast hospital had to wait three weeks on life-saving surgery because the cardiac equipment had to be sourced from another country because of the NI Protocol.

We weren't clear if Sir Jeffrey was referencing an issue in one of South Eastern Trust's hospitals or if he meant the problem was with surgery in a Belfast Trust hospital. In Belfast Trust we are content that this has not been the case, but we would rather double-check with Sir Jeffrey in case an issue has been brought to his attention. We would like to ensure any issue concerning Belfast Trust has been remedied.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know the issue Sir Jeffrey was referencing, so that we can address the matter immediately.

I know you said your systems are down today, so I understand it may be difficult for you to find out and get back to me right away.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust



[REDACTED]

From: Owens, Bernie
Sent: 01 November 2022 12:39
To: PublicLiaison-SM; Armstrong, Brian; Boyd, Stephen; Dalzell, Bronagh
Cc: Young, Anne; [REDACTED] Mulholland, Susane
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

Great thanks [REDACTED]
Bernie

Bernie Owens
Deputy Chief Executive

From: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net> **On Behalf Of** PublicLiaison-SM
Sent: 01 November 2022 12:30
To: Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Armstrong, Brian
<Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <Stephen.Boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh
<Bronagh.Dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Young, Anne <Anne.Young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>;
Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

No problem.

Southern Trust now have a query in from Sir JD so they'll copy that to us once finalised.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust



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Social Care Trust**
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From: Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Sent: 01 November 2022 11:46
To: PublicLiaison-SM <publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Armstrong, Brian <Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <Stephen.Boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh <Bronagh.Dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Young, Anne <Anne.Young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net;
Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

[REDACTED]
This should have said Cath lab sorry, I have updated the email below.
Sorry for the confusion
Bernie

Bernie Owens
Deputy Chief Executive

From: Shaw, Cathy <cathy.shaw@belfasttrust.hscni.net> **On Behalf Of** PublicLiaison-SM
Sent: 01 November 2022 11:32
To: Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Armstrong, Brian <Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <Stephen.Boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh <Bronagh.Dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Young, Anne <Anne.Young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net;
Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

Will do Bernie

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
[REDACTED]



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From: Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Sent: 01 November 2022 11:31

To: PublicLiaison-SM <publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Armstrong, Brian

<Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <Stephen.Boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh

<Bronagh.Dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Cc: Young, Anne <Anne.Young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net;

Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

[REDACTED]
For total completeness, I would be grateful if you could confirm with the Southern Trust if the parts they needed for the Cath Lab; were they delayed due to the protocol or was it within the normal delivery window?

Many thanks

Bernie

Bernie Owens

Deputy Chief Executive

From: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net> On Behalf Of PublicLiaison-SM

Sent: 01 November 2022 11:26

To: Armstrong, Brian <Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Owens, Bernie

<bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <Stephen.Boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh

<Bronagh.Dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Cc: Young, Anne <Anne.Young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net;

Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

Southern Trust have come back to say "20 patients were referred to Belfast Trust during the equipment breakdown"

We need to answer Sir Jeffery's question posed to us in his email below:

Can you please confirm that the Belfast Trust did indeed receive a number of additional referrals from the Southern HSC Trust for patients requiring procedures to have stents fitted as a result of these procedures not being available in the Southern Trust for a limited period

Are you content for me to reply saying "We can confirm that yes, 20 patients were referred to Belfast Trust during the equipment breakdown"

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust



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From: Armstrong, Brian <Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Sent: 31 October 2022 11:17

To: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net; Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <stephen.boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh <bronagh.dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Young, Anne <anne.young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net;
Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

Thanks [REDACTED]

This is obviously not a story for Belfast Trust, all remaining queries should be redirected to Craigavon.

Brian

Dr Brian Armstrong
Director of Unscheduled Care



Royal Victoria Hospital (KEB)
274 Grosvenor Road, Belfast,
BT12 6BA



From: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Sent: 31 October 2022 08:27

To: Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Armstrong, Brian <Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <Stephen.Boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh <Bronagh.Dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Young, Anne <Anne.Young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Subject: FW: Good Morning Ulster

See below reply from Jeffrey Donaldson in regards to his GMU claims on Friday.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
[REDACTED]





From: DONALDSON, Jeffrey <jeffrey.donaldson.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 30 October 2022 18:31
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net)>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@parliament.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.uk)>
Subject: FW: Good Morning Ulster

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for being in touch about this.

For clarity, I am informed that the initial problem arose in the Southern Trust as a result of a cardiac unit being unable to access parts for an angiogram device, thus resulting in the cancellation of certain procedures for a number of their cardiac patients. I am informed that these patients were then referred on to an acute hospital in Belfast (RVH I believe) for the procedures they needed. As a result of the initial problem in the Southern Trust, the patients inevitably experienced a significant and worrying delay in having their stents fitted at the Belfast based hospital. I am clear that none of this was the fault of the Belfast Trust.

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Kind regards,

Jeffrey

Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP
Lagan Valley

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net)>
Sent: 28 October 2022 15:18
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@parliament.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.uk)>
Subject: Good Morning Ulster

Dear [REDACTED]

As per our telephone conversation a few moments ago, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson raised today on Good Morning Ulster, his concern that patients in a large Belfast hospital had to wait three weeks on life-saving surgery because the cardiac equipment had to be sourced from another country because of the NI Protocol.

We weren't clear if Sir Jeffrey was referencing an issue in one of South Eastern Trust's hospitals or if he meant the problem was with surgery in a Belfast Trust hospital. In Belfast Trust we are content that this has not been the case, but we would rather double-check with Sir Jeffrey in case an issue has been brought to his attention. We would like to ensure any issue concerning Belfast Trust has been remedied.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know the issue Sir Jeffrey was referencing, so that we can address the matter immediately.

I know you said your systems are down today, so I understand it may be difficult for you to find out and get back to me right away.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

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Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

[REDACTED]



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Young, Anne

From: Young, Anne
Sent: 01 November 2022 11:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

Hi [REDACTED] I see Bernie has come back to you – all sorted
Thanks
Anne

From: Young, Anne
Sent: 01 November 2022 11:46
To: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Subject: FW: Good Morning Ulster

Hi [REDACTED] on the huddle, will call round to chat about this
Thanks
Anne

From: Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Sent: 01 November 2022 11:31
To: PublicLiaison-SM <publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Armstrong, Brian <Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <Stephen.Boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh <Bronagh.Dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Young, Anne <Anne.Young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

[REDACTED]
For total completeness, I would be grateful if you could confirm with the Southern Trust if the parts they needed for the scanner; were they delayed due to the protocol or was it within the normal delivery window?
Many thanks
Bernie

Bernie Owens
Deputy Chief Executive

From: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net> **On Behalf Of** PublicLiaison-SM
Sent: 01 November 2022 11:26
To: Armstrong, Brian <Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <Stephen.Boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh <Bronagh.Dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Young, Anne <Anne.Young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

Southern Trust have come back to say “20 patients were referred to Belfast Trust during the equipment breakdown”

We need to answer Sir Jeffery’s question posed to us in his email below:

Can you please confirm that the Belfast Trust did indeed receive a number of additional referrals from the Southern HSC Trust for patients requiring procedures to have stents fitted as a result of these procedures not being available in the Southern Trust for a limited period

Are you content for me to reply saying "We can confirm that yes, 20 patients were referred to Belfast Trust during the equipment breakdown"

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
[REDACTED]



From: Armstrong, Brian <Brian.Armstrong@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Sent: 31 October 2022 11:17

To: Shaw, Cathy <cathy.shaw@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Owens, Bernie <bernie.owens@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Boyd, Stephen <stephen.boyd@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; Dalzell, Bronagh <bronagh.dalzell@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Cc: Young, Anne <anne.young@belfasttrust.hscni.net>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net>;

Mulholland, Susane <susane.mulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net>

Subject: RE: Good Morning Ulster

Thanks [REDACTED]

This is obviously not a story for Belfast Trust, all remaining queries should be redirected to Craigavon.

Brian

Dr Brian Armstrong
Director of Unscheduled Care



Royal Victoria Hospital (KEB)
274 Grosvenor Road, Belfast,
BT12 6BA



From: Toal, Peter <Peter.Toal@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Sent: 08 November 2022 16:03
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: RE: Cardiac Care Disruption statement - J Donaldson

Hi [REDACTED]
A letter of response was provided by SHSCT to Sir Jeffrey.
Many Thanks
Peter Toal
Communications Manager
Southern Health and Social Care Trust

From: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net> On Behalf Of PublicLiaison-SM
Sent: 08 November 2022 14:57
To: Toal, Peter <Peter.Toal@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: Cardiac Care Disruption statement - J Donaldson

You don't often get email from publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net. [Learn why this is important](#)
Hi Peter

Was this sent to Sir Jeffrey by yourselves in response to the query he submitted to you?
Just want to make sure this isn't in draft or anything.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust



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From: Toal, Peter <Peter.Toal@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Sent: 01 November 2022 15:52

To:

Cc:

Subject: Cardiac Care Disruption statement - J Donaldson

Importance: High

Hi,

See below SHSCT statement re media queries related to the comments by Sir Jeffrey Donaldson during an interview this morning:

"In early August, we experienced some difficulties with our Cardiac Catheterisation Service related to significant faults with the transfer of images and cabling fractures in our Cath Lab.

Extensive efforts were made to source replacement parts in both the Republic of Ireland and the UK but unfortunately given the size of the equipment required, it had to be sourced from the manufacturing site in Germany.

The replacement cabling was shipped from Germany and the work was able to be completed on Friday 18 August. Following checks we were able to recommence the Cath Lab lists.

Given that the service would be suspended for a period of time, we liaised with colleagues in the Belfast Trust to facilitate the transfer of 20 patients to have their procedures completed.

There have been no further issues with the equipment since the cabling was replaced."

Many Thanks

Peter Toal

Communications Manager

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of PublicLiaison-SM
Sent: 09 November 2022 15:42
To: Rogers, Ruth
Cc: Toal, Peter; McDowell, Louise
Subject: RE: J Donaldson query

Hi Ruth

Just checking in to see if you are able to send me a copy of that response please?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust



From: Rogers, Ruth <Ruth.Rogers@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Sent: 01 November 2022 12:26
To: PublicLiaison-SM <publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Toal, Peter <Peter.Toal@southerntrust.hscni.net>; McDowell, Louise <louise.mcdowell@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: J Donaldson query

Hi [REDACTED]

We now have a query in from Sir JD so I'll copy that to you once finalised

Ruth Rogers
Head of Communications
Telephone 028 375 60137



From: [REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net> On Behalf Of PublicLiaison-SM
Sent: 01 November 2022 11:56
To: Rogers, Ruth <Ruth.Rogers@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Toal, Peter <Peter.Toal@southerntrust.hscni.net>; McDowell, Louise
<louise.mcdowell@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: J Donaldson query

Apologies Ruth, this should have read...

I would be grateful if you could confirm if the parts the Southern Trust needed for the cath lab were they delayed due to the protocol or was it within the normal delivery window?

Many thanks



Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust



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From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of PublicLiaison-SM
Sent: 01 November 2022 11:34
To: Rogers, Ruth <Ruth.Rogers@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Cc: Toal, Peter <Peter.Toal@southerntrust.hscni.net>; McDowell, Louise
<louise.mcdowell@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Subject: RE: J Donaldson query

Hi Ruth

Thanks for coming back to me.

I would be grateful if you could confirm if the parts the Southern Trust needed for the scanner were they delayed due to the protocol or was it within the normal delivery window?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Corporate Communications
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
[REDACTED]



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Social Care Trust
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From: Rogers, Ruth <Ruth.Rogers@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Sent: 01 November 2022 10:02
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@belfasttrust.hscni.net)>
Cc: Toal, Peter <Peter.Toal@southerntrust.hscni.net>; McDowell, Louise <louise.mcdowell@southerntrust.hscni.net>
Subject: J Donaldson query

[REDACTED]
Further to our conversation – just to confirm 20 patients were refd to yourselves during the equipment breakdown.

Ruth Rogers
Head of Communications
Telephone **028 375 60137**
www.southerntrust.hscni.net

