

BRIEFING NOTE

For Elected Representatives



Belfast Trust took possession of the new Maternity Hospital in March 2024. The building then began the clinical commissioning phase. Clinical commissioning is an essential process in ensuring a safe transition of service to a new building. In this phase we continue to monitor all our life safety and water systems.

During testing of water outlets, high levels of *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* were discovered in the water system. The Trust is developing a remediation plan for the water systems which could significantly impact on timescales for occupation of the building.

Our staff continue to provide excellent care to women and babies in the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital and service delivery has not been impacted as a result of the delay.

We acknowledge that, for a number of reasons, the new Maternity building has taken a long time to complete. Whilst this further delay is very disappointing, the safety of new mothers and their babies is our main priority. We will continue to address the required remedial works in order to ensure the building is safe to open to provide high quality care for women and their babies.

Should you have any queries in regards to the new Maternity Hospital, please feel free to contact us using the usual lines of communication. Public Liaison are your first point of contact at the Trust and our details are below.



THANK YOU!

As you know, it was the turn of Belfast Trust to roll out Health and Social Care NI's new digital programme called 'encompass' last month.

As staff moved from a paperless system to a new digital programme, we encountered short delays in responding to your constituency enquiries as staff within our services adjusted to the new ways of working.

We really appreciated your patience and understanding during this time, so thank you!

During this time, you were hopefully able to make use of the resources already available to you and your constituents. Remember, you and your constituents can continue to use these helpful resources for a range of various queries.

Check them out below...



My Waiting Times NI

Are your constituents on a hospital waiting list?

Remember, your constituents can now check the average waiting time for their first outpatient appointment on the My Waiting Times NI webpage.

You, or they, can search by local Health and Social Care Trust and the clinical specialty of the appointment.

Click the button to view.



PUBLIC LIAISON SERVICE

Tel: (028) 9504 5888
Email: PublicLiaison@BelfastTrust.hscni.net





Phone First Service

If your constituents have a minor injury, they should Phone First for triage. We are learning all the time how to improve our service, and from feedback, 97% of patients who used the service stated they were happy and would use Phone First again.

Please call 028 9615 9444 to be assessed by phone before being advised of the appropriate next steps.

If you are experiencing a life threatening injury please call 999 immediately.

PHONE FIRST

Make sure you **PHONE FIRST** before going to the Emergency Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital or the Mater

028 9615 9444

Operating from 8am to 6pm
Monday to Friday,
excluding bank holidays

FOR EMERGENCIES - 999
Including: stroke, heart attack, loss of consciousness, breathing difficulties, severe bleeding or major trauma
ALWAYS CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY

Children's Symptom Checker

When children are ill, it's a worrying time.

That's why we've launched the Symptom Checker: a verified advice service written by doctors and delivered to you and your constituents in an easy-to-understand traffic light system.

With this tool, parents can quickly and easily access symptom checkers for all common illnesses like coughs, colds, headaches and tummy troubles.

Find out more about the Symptom Checker by clicking the button



July is Sarcoma Awareness Month



Sarcoma is a rare cancer that develops in the cells of the tissues surrounding your organs. This tissue is known as connective tissue.

Did you know, there are many different types of sarcoma? It's useful to divide them into bone sarcomas and soft tissue sarcomas, which includes fat, muscles, blood vessels, deep skin tissues, nerves, tendons, ligaments and the tissues around your joints.



For more information and links to organisations which offer support, please click the button

