

FRIENDS OF OUR NEW HOSPITAL
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Media Release
28 July 2020

Release Begins

“Friends of Our New Hospital Call for a Public Review of Health Plans”

In the wake of the £50.3 million already spent on not developing the Future Hospital, our Government continues to waste our (the Jersey people’s) time and money, whilst insulting our intelligence.

The ‘Our Hospital’ Site Selection Process:

- Having spent £23.7 million on consultant reports since 2011, this government has chosen to ignore almost all of the resultant recommendations relating to the site selection.
- Sites previously (and for good reason) deemed to be the most viable options have been bypassed, only to be replaced by a selection of less appropriate and knowingly controversial sites, certain to cause a public outcry.
- The ‘Site Selection’ paper released on 20th July contained no less than 22 points that are either contradictory, inaccurate, or just plain ill-judged. Even the diagrams of the sites published are not to the same scale.
- Properly evaluated, the information released for the new selection of sites clearly indicates a huge disparity in the respective areas available for development, with some nowhere near large enough to accommodate the type of hospital the island requires.
- The ‘Site Selection’ paper states there are only three sites of sufficient size deemed capable of facilitating the construction in the specified time: the fields at Le Boulivot, St Saviour’s Hospital and Warwick Farm. Of the three, St Saviour’s Hospital and Warwick Farm are in Government ownership but have not been included in the final shortlist. Despite these inexplicable omissions from the list, we are assured that the project will be delivered on time.

Changes to our Health Service:

- Several weeks ago, the Samares Ward at Overdale was closed, with the 27 specialist beds and a full range of purpose designed equipment replaced by a six-bed space in Portelet ward in the General Hospital and the specialist staff dispersed within the Hospital.
- There are currently no known plans to replace this wonderful facility, custom designed and built in 2006 and used to nurse stroke, brain injury and (post-surgery) orthopaedic patients, back to the best possible health.
- The Diabetic Clinic has been closed, again without any public announcement or statement on how diabetic patients are to be treated. This is the Jersey Care Model being implemented despite it not having been approved by the States, let alone costed and the sum made public.
- By many accounts, Government’s management of the GP’s during their period of State ‘Covid’ employment has been woeful and disorganised, as has their general management of the health service during that time, despite the very welcome absence of anything vaguely resembling a full-blown Covid 19 pandemic outbreak.
- There is still no public knowledge of exactly when the much-vaunted Jersey Care Model is going to be implemented and when the promised “further consultation with the public”, assured by the Director General of HCS, Ms Caroline Landon in her parish presentations late last year, is going to happen.
- With instances of bullying being reported, morale amongst many of the ‘hands on’ members of the medical profession is at an all-time low. Recently 14 nurses registered for sick leave, simultaneously

from one ward. This is embarrassing for Hospital Management, but unsurprising, when staff are not properly consulted, or valued.

- Meanwhile the hospital is short of two medical consultants and is losing its chest consultant this autumn, both issues presumably to be covered by expensive locums. And for how long? Even the Health Minister has publicly admitted that his Ophthalmology Department is struggling to meet patient demand.
- In summary, our hospital used to be under strain; now it is in crisis. And this is without a major Covid outbreak, which may still occur.
- For the good of our Island, it's high time those in the most senior positions were properly held to account, and appropriate remedial action taken, if deemed necessary, - before it's too late.

Friends of our New Hospital urge the public, most strongly, to contact your local Deputy, Constable, any Senator, or media outlet to ask that they take action to rectify all of the above as soon as possible.

Release ends

Further background

Friends of Our New Hospital

Our objective is to create and sustain a public campaign to assist Our Government in accelerating the completion of the new hospital. We will make every effort to mobilize public opinion and to lobby Our Government to ensure progress is made as soon as possible

For further information please contact:

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