

FRIENDS OF OUR NEW HOSPITAL

**P O Box 442
Jersey JE4 5RE**

A Non-Profit Organisation NPO1277

Media Release

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Hospital Project Delay Looks Inevitable

Anyone who thought that construction of the new hospital could begin at Overdale before the elections set for May or June next year should think again.

According to Professor Ashok Handa, Clinical Director the Our Hospital Project, who spoke at a Les Quennevais Neighbourhood Forum meeting for Les Quennevais residents on 8 April 2021, the old school at Les Quennevais will not be ready to receive services from Overdale until the end of 2022. Professor Handa did say that he hoped that, if everything went well, it could be as early as September 2022. Asked if demolition of the buildings now in use at Overdale might begin before the move to Les Quennevais he said very clearly that this would not happen.

Professor Handa went on to say that the aim is to get the planning permission first, then get the building at Les Quennevais old school completed, then start to move the services, and only once they have moved will the buildings at Overdale be demolished. "From a safety perspective," he said, "we do not want to have patient care provided on a building site."

Professor Handa also listed the services that will be moving from Overdale to Les Quennevais. Asked whether all the services would return to the new hospital, Professor Handa was again very clear that some services, especially the community facing services, may not return to the new hospital as they may prefer to remain in the community in a quieter area. Those plans are for five years hence and are not clear yet, he said.

Professor Handa, who is associate professor of surgery and consultant vascular surgeon at the Radcliffe hospital in Oxford, was appointed to the hospital team in July 2019 on a two-year contract.

Peter Funk, Interim Chair of Friends of Our Hospital, commented:

"Until now the Council of Ministers and the Political Oversight Group responsible for the Our Hospital Project have emphasised that construction of the new hospital at Overdale will begin before the next elections in May or June 2022. This will not be possible given the dates outlined by Professor Handa. We welcome Professor Handa's statement that we will have a General not an Acute Hospital but It's time for Deputy Renouf, our Health & Community Services Minister, to give the public the full picture of when it will be delivered."

Release ends

Friends of Our New Hospital

Our objective is to create and sustain a public campaign to assist Our Government in achieving the best possible new hospital for our Island.

For further Information please contact:

Peter C Funk
Email: peter.funk@ournewhospital.org.je
Mobile: +44 77977 32819

Mary Venturini
Email: maryventurini@yahoo.com
Mobile: +44 1534 862915