

## Written Questions Received for November 2019 Board Meeting

Question sent in by ...	Question	To be answered by ...	Reply
Bess Harding	<p>Welcome to the new chair. St. George's Hospital always put a large advert in the Comet advertising forthcoming Board Meetings. Are the Epsom &amp; St. Helier Trust going to do the same in future to let the general public know the Board Meeting is taking place? Not everyone knows to go on line and they are not easy to find.</p>	<p><b>Lisa Thompson</b>  Director of Communications and Patient Experience</p>	<p>The dates of all Public Board Meetings are advertised on the Trust website at <a href="https://www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk/board-meetings">https://www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk/board-meetings</a></p> <p>Because of the geography of the Trust, we would need to place advertisements in three newspapers, which would have a cost implication, and previous experience has been that placing advertisements makes no difference to attendance at meetings. We are happy, however, to look at whether it would be possible to advertise Board meeting dates in the notices section of the local papers.</p>
Bess Harding	<p>In April 2019 EMEF Trustees of EMEF met with the CEO, Estates and Communications Directors of Epsom &amp; St. Helier Trust when it was accepted that EMEF would donate equipment to Epsom General Hospital and that Epsom &amp; St. Helier Hospital Trust would draw up a simple agreement stating that the equipment donated would remain at Epsom and not go elsewhere. Despite several reminders, we have yet to receive a response although over six months have elapsed. We would like to donate this equipment as soon as possible as this will benefit the local community. When will the agreement be sent to us?</p>	<p><b>Trevor Fitzgerald</b>  Director of Estates, Facilities and Capital Projects</p>	<p>Our sincere apologies for the long delay in drafting the donation agreement. This agreement has now been drafted and sent to Epsom Medical Equipment Fund. We greatly appreciate the work the charity does for our patients at Epsom Hospital and hope that the agreement will be operational by the end of November 2019.</p>

Bess Harding	A few friends have been hospitalised at Epsom recently and when visiting I have noticed several empty beds. Why is this?	<p><b>Sue Jones</b></p> <p>Joint Chief Operating Officer</p>	<p>We have been able to keep beds closed at Epsom because of our integrated model of working with our community partners. By managing patients more actively at home we are able to both reduce admissions to hospital and enable people to go home more quickly with the right home support.</p> <p>If we need to open these beds over the winter we have an escalation process that will allow us to do so.</p>
Bob Mackison	Does St Georges Hospital have written questions and verbal questions from the public at their Board Meetings?	<p><b>Gillian Norton</b></p> <p>Chairman</p>	<p>The system for submitting questions is very similar at both St Georges and Epsom and St Helier.</p> <p>In both Trusts, questions are welcomed in advance of Board meetings and must be submitted no later than 48 hours before the meeting takes place.</p> <p>At St Georges, verbal questions on the day are allowed on an occasional basis. This is at the Chairman's discretion but is quite rare.</p>