

## Written Questions Received for July 2020 Board Meeting

Question sent in by ...	Question	To be answered by ...	Reply
<p>Chelliah Lohendran Vice Chair Merton CCG Patient Engagement Forum</p>	<p>Q1. I am led to believe that part of Epsom Hospital Land has been sold and flats are being built for older people. Also part of these flats are to be given to the hospital as rehabilitation wards. Please let me know if the similar exercise will be carried out at St Helier hospital complex? Demolition of Ferguson Ward?</p>	<p>Trevor Fitzgerald</p>	<p>A1. Following the recent purchase of land at Epsom hospital by Guild Living, the new owners have submitted a planning application for a range of uses which are complimentary to the hospital, but will not be operated by ESTH.</p> <p>Under Improving Healthcare Together, St Helier will be transformed into a district hospital in the coming years and the estate will be rationalised to improve the patient environment. In the coming months, the Trust will explore the health needs for the site and other public services requirements for the local population. Ferguson House is not required in the long term plan.</p>
	<p>Q2. During the pandemic front the line staff including the cleaners/porters too worked hard. But some would have been on low pay and zero hour contract. I suppose most would have been agency staff. Having done a great service during the challenging times, will it be possible to employ these staffs in house. In the event of a second peak or future other virus their services will be urgently required.</p>	<p>Debbie Eytayo</p>	<p>A2. Our cleaning and portering services are provided by an external contract and they manage the employment for this group.</p> <p>We really appreciate all our staff and volunteers. They have done an exceptional and outstanding job to support the trust manage health services during the pandemic. They have worked flexibly and at pace to adapt to the changing requirements.</p>
	<p>Q3. What % of BAME staffs are employed at both hospitals and how many sadly lost their lives? Will these BAME staff be tested and risk assessed for future employment?</p>	<p>Debbie Eytayo</p>	<p>A3. 36% of our staff are BAME. 1 of our colleagues has very sadly lost their life to COVID19.</p> <p>All staff including BAME staff are being risk assessed now and on starting employment. All staff are also being encouraged to have an antibody test.</p>