

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express & Star
Date of article	7 th October 2013
Reporter	Louise Jew
Headline	National shortage of nurses harms intake
First paragraph/s of article	<p>A HOSPITAL hunting for 18 extra nurses amid criticism of its ‘inadequate staffing’ is being hampered by a national shortage – and has been able to appoint two so far.</p> <p>A recent recruitment drive by Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley attracted 79 applicants, of which 17 were shortlisted for an interview.</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Express and Star attended our public Board meeting which stated the Trust advertised for 18 nurses and we only appointed one.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many people applied for the 18 nursing posts? 2. Why was only one appointed? 3. What sort of posts were they appointed into/ 4. What are we doing to get the rest? 5. How can we cope without them?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>The Dudley Group has recently appointed seven experienced band 5 nurses into vacant posts within the medical and surgical specialties.</p> <p>We received 79 applications, for 18 additional nursing posts, of which 17 were shortlisted for interview. However, the Trust was looking for nurses who had previous experience of working within an acute setting; a significant number of the applicants were newly qualified nurses with no previous experience and were, therefore, unsuitable.</p>	

We also appointed 40 newly qualified graduate nurses in September who will have the opportunity to apply for remaining vacant posts once they have gained the required level of nursing experience.

We also operate an established staff bank which supplies registered nurses to fill planned and unplanned vacant shifts.

ENDS