

**For the Record – Press Statements**

<b>Publication</b>	Dudley News
<b>Date of article</b>	01/03/2013
<b>Reporter</b>	Staff reporter
<b>Headline</b>	Hospital canteen cuts may lead to 30 job losses
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	<p>Up to 30 restaurant staff at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital may lose their jobs as part of cost-saving cuts to canteen opening hours.</p> <p>Workers in the restaurant, near the main hospital entrance, fear up to 30 staff members out of a total 64 could lose their jobs by April 1 as part of plans to reduce weekday opening hours and close the facility altogether on weekends.</p>
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>Staff from the Trust have contacted the local press to say that the main restaurant at Russells Hall Hospital will be closing at 2.30pm on weekdays and will not open on weekends.</p> <p>The reporter would like to know: Are we closing the restaurant as explained above? Can the Trust comment on why this decision has been made?</p>
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>Providing the best possible care for patients remains the highest priority at The Dudley Group.</p> <p>As part of savings plans for next financial year, the Trust has been working hard with their PFI partner Summit Healthcare (Dudley) Ltd and support services provider Interserve to see where they can make savings from non clinical services.</p> <p>“Any decisions to reduce services or facilities that we provide are very difficult to make but, as our commitment to providing the highest standard of care for patients remains our highest priority, we feel it is better to make savings from non clinical</p>	

services,” said Chief Executive Paula Clark.

The Trust is making changes to the way catering services are provided at Russells Hall Hospital. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 the opening hours will be 8.00am to 2.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

The Costa Coffee outlet at main reception will remain open as usual from 7.00am – 8.00pm Monday to Friday and 3pm – 8pm Saturday and Sunday. We are working with Interserve to widen the range of food available to include hot snacks, soup and salads.

To ensure provision of both hot and cold food and drinks 24 hours per day, the vending facilities within the main restaurant remain unchanged.

“This decision follows a comprehensive review of footfall through the restaurant, which concluded there was very little footfall after the lunch time service and the uptake at weekends has reduced considerably,” said Paula.

These reduced opening hours will save the Trust £110,000 per year.

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