

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star
Date of article	20 th September 2013
Reporter	Andrew Turton
Headline	Hospital chiefs holding talks on full-face veils
First paragraph/s of article	<p>A REVIEW is being launched over whether full-face veils should be worn within the health service, with 17 NHS hospitals having enforced bans and Dudley health chiefs saying they will discuss the matter further.</p> <p>The review over the religious headdress has been announced after Health Minister Dan Poulter claimed that face coverings can be a barrier to good communication between health care professionals and patients.</p>
Paragraph relating to the Dudley Group	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said it was looking into the issue.
Press enquiry	<p>The Express and Star has been in touch regarding the current media attention on the issue of whether or not full face veils should be allowed to be worn by NHS employees who have contact with patients.</p> <p>Questions: Does a ban already exist at The Dudley Group? Are we considering putting a ban in place?</p>
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>The question of whether full-face veils can be worn while at work has never been raised at The Dudley Group. In light of the national position we are now reviewing our uniform policy.</p> <p>*** ENDS ***</p>	