

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star
Date of article	21 st October 2014
Reporter	Alex Ross
Headline	Hospital cleared of restraint claims
First paragraph/s of article	Russells Hall Hospital has been cleared of any wrongdoing after it was accused of illegally restraining patients.
Press enquiry	<p>The Express and Star contacted the Trust after receiving a copy of the report published by Dudley Safeguarding Children and Adults Board which looked into the use of restraint at the Trust. The safeguarding board's investigation found no evidence of unlawful restraint at the Trust.</p> <p>The reporter asked if the Trust would like to comment on the report findings</p>
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>We are delighted that a robust review carried out by the Dudley Children and Adults Safeguarding boards into allegations of unlawful restraint of patients at The Dudley Group has found that in every case, the restraint was necessary, proportionate and in the best interests of the patient.</p> <p>West Midlands Police also carried out an investigation into the claims and found “no evidence of the unlawful detention of patients”. Our own internal investigation also found the claims have no basis in fact and this was echoed by the Care Quality Commission findings.</p> <p>We have always strenuously denied the claims published in local and national media, and we hope the reviews and investigations can reassure everyone that the welfare and safety of our patients, particularly vulnerable patients in our care, is our top priority.</p>	

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Notes for editors

For further information please contact Jackie Dietrich, Communications Manager, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 456111 extension 1314 or email Jackie.dietrich@dgh.nhs.uk