

**For the Record – Press Statements**

<b>Publication</b>	Express and Star
<b>Date of article</b>	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2015
<b>Reporter</b>	Adam Burling
<b>Headline</b>	Intensive care beds full as demand rises
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	HEATH bosses have reported that every intensive care bed was full at hospitals across the West Midlands on a string of occasions over the last year.
<b>Paragraphs relating to The Dudley Group</b>	Paragraph 5: Critical care beds at Dudley’s Russells Hall Hospital were all occupied on six of the 12 days.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>The Express and Star contacted the Trust after collecting figures from NHS England for the 12 months from March 2014 to February 2015 that show that The Dudley Group had a 100 per cent occupancy of adult critical care beds on six occasions. The Express and Star asked for a comment.</p> <p>They asked the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there a problem with availability of critical care beds?</li> <li>2. What is being done to improve this?</li> </ol>
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>Critical care refers collectively to three areas in the hospital:  <b>ITU</b>, which has six beds (can be increased to nine if needed)  <b>Surgical High Dependency Unit (SHDU)</b>, which has eight beds  <b>Medical High Dependency Unit (MHDU)</b>, which has six beds (can be increased to 10 if needed)</p> <p>The information provided to NHS England is based on the 20 standard beds and does not include the three additional beds on ITU or the four additional beds on our Medical High Dependency Unit that can be opened if required. There is also extra provision on Ward B3 in our Vascular High Dependency Unit which can be used to</p>	

relieve pressure on SHDU if needed.

We routinely monitor demand and manage all elective operations by booking beds for patients in advance. The Trust is also part of the Critical Care Network which means we can transfer patients to other units in the West Midlands if required.

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