

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Judith Hawkins
<b>Date of article</b>	08/10/16
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Only nine pass English test</b>
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	Only nine nurses from the Philippines due to start work at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust have passed their IELTS English Language test, despite hopes that 130 would start in November.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	The Express & Star contacted the Trust after attending the Trust's Board of Directors meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2016.  In relation to the Chief Nurse Report, the Trust was asked to clarify the progress made in recruiting nurses from the Philippines.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM DAWN WARDELL, CHIEF NURSE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>Recruiting from overseas is a lengthy process and it is frustrating that it is taking longer than anticipated to start our new recruits in post.</p> <p>After their initial interview, overseas candidates must pass a rigorous IELTS English language test followed by the CBT computer competence test via the NMC. Once passed, they then begin their visa application. After they arrive in the UK, candidates must then pass a practical competence test via the NMC before they can be given their PIN numbers.</p> <p>The nine candidates from the Philippines are now taking their computer literacy tests and have not experienced any specific delays from the NMC. We apologise for the miscommunication suggesting otherwise.</p> <p>There is a national shortage of nurses and, in common with other trusts, we continue to recruit in a variety of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We hold regular Nurse Recruitment Open Days at RHH</li> <li>• We visit career days at universities</li> </ul>	

- We have rolling adverts on NHS Jobs
- We are working with Health Education England to encourage former and retired nurses to return to practice
- We continue to welcome graduate nurses following placements with us
- We are exploring further EU recruitment

We are also exploring different options for supporting our existing registered nurses:

- We are developing higher level support workers in anticipation of the new Nursing Associate role
- We have increased the number of support workers we recruit to provide increased support to registered nurses.

Although nursing education in the Philippines is delivered in English, the IELTS English language test is proving more challenging than anticipated.

**\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\***

**Notes for editors**

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