

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Richard Guttridge
<b>Date of article</b>	03/01/17
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Record numbers flocking to A&amp;E</b>
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	More than 600 patients have been pouring into A&E at Russells Hall Hospital every day over the Christmas and New Year period.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	The Express & Star contacted the Trust following a press release asking the public to consider other options before coming to A&E. They asked for further information relating to waiting times and the number of patients attending.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM DR PAUL HARRISON, ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>Despite increased pressures, The Dudley Group continues to perform well against the government-set target to see, treat, admit or discharge patients within four hours of arrival at A&amp;E. The length of time patients wait depends on their condition and; clearly, we always prioritise those who are seriously ill and require immediate treatment over those with minor ailments or injuries.</p> <p>Over the Christmas and Bank Holiday period, around 620 patients attended Russells Hall Hospital each day. So far this month, the number of patients attending has increased by around 6% when compared to December last year, which was itself an extremely busy period. The number of patients brought in by ambulance, who are usually the most unwell, has increased by around 10%.</p> <p>Higher patient attendances, especially of patients who are seriously unwell, inevitably increase pressure on all our hospital services, including inpatient wards, X-rays and other diagnostics.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>***ENDS***</b></p> <p>For more information, please call Alice Ford, Communications and Staff Engagement Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 244403</p>	