

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Alex Ross
<b>Date of article</b>	04.09.17
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Ambulances kept waiting at A&amp;E</b>
<b>Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group</b>	<p>Ambulances were kept waiting for more than 1,000 hours before they could drop off patients in just one month at hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire.</p> <p>At Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, paramedics wasted 338 hours waiting to handover patients in June. One patient had to wait 1 hour 56 minutes.</p>
<b>Press enquiry</b>	The Express & Star contacted the Trust in relation to ambulance handover times published by West Midlands Ambulance Service.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM PAUL BYTHEWAY, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>Patient safety is always maintained and those requiring urgent clinical attention are, always given priority to ensure they receive the care and treatment they need as soon as possible.</p> <p>During quarter four (April, May and June 2017) we saw an 11% rise in the number of ambulances received at Russells Hall Hospital compared with the same quarter in the previous year.</p> <p>We continue to work closely with our colleagues at West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) to make sure that patients who arrive by ambulance at A&amp;E are assessed, treated and handed over as quickly and efficiently as possible.</p> <p>The brand new emergency treatment centre opening in November 2017 will help reduce ambulance handover times as we are increasing our ambulance triage bays from four to 12.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>*** ENDS ***</b></p> <p><b>Notes for editors</b></p> <p>For further information please contact Chace Smith, Communications Assistant for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email <a href="mailto:communications@dgh.nhs.uk">communications@dgh.nhs.uk</a></p>	