

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Richard Guttridge
<b>Date of article</b>	12.04.17
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Mixed ward breaches due to bed shortages</b>
<b>Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group</b>	Men and women had to share wards at a Black Country hospital due to bed shortages, it has been revealed.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	The Express & Star contacted the Trust in relation to the number of mixed sex breaches at Russells Hall Hospital in January 2017 referred to in the Chief Nurse report. The Trust was asked to comment.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>The Trust reported 26 breaches in January 2017 against the single-sex accommodation rules. Breaches occurred due to the demand for inpatient beds.</p> <p>We have the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure that patients who are admitted will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex, and same-sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to their bed area. Sharing with members of the opposite sex will only happen when clinically necessary (for example where patients need specialist equipment such as in the critical care unit), or when there is a high demand for inpatient beds.</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 456111 extension 1064 or email <a href="mailto:communications@dgh.nhs.uk">communications@dgh.nhs.uk</a></p>	