

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star
Date of article	Monday 29 th October 2012
Reporter	Heather Large
Headline	Hospital food spend varies across region
First paragraph/s of article	Hospital patients face a postcode lottery when it comes to how much money is spent on their daily meals, new NHS figures reveal.
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	<p>The amount spent per meal in 2011/12 in Wolverhampton was £8.72 while £10.14 was spent in Walsall, £12.55 in Worcestershire and £12.90 in Dudley.</p> <p>Paula Clark, chief executive for Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said: “The trust takes the nutrition of our patients very seriously and we are committed to providing a healthy menu for our patients.”</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The reporter is doing a story about hospital meals and looking at how much hospitals spend and the types of meals on offer. According to the NHS statistics, the Trust spends £12.90 per patient per day.</p> <p>Question</p> <p>1. Could we give them some examples of the types of meals we offer patients and how the menu is drawn up?</p>
Also issued to:	NA
Trust response	
<p>The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust takes the nutrition of our patients very seriously and we are committed to providing a healthy menu for our patients. Our extensive and varied menus are drawn up by a team of Trust dietitians, catering managers and ward nutritional link nurses.</p> <p>We also offer bespoke menus for certain types of wards and specialties, for example, elderly care and children’s wards. We also provide meals for special diets which include, for example, gluten free, easy chew, pureed, vegan and halal food. A different menu is served on a 14 day cycle which means that a menu served on</p>	

day one will not be offered again until day 15.

A breakfast menu includes orange juice, grapefruit segments, toast and cereal etc. At lunch time and evening we offer chicken and pasta with tomatoes and herbs, cauliflower cheese, mashed potato, wholemeal tuna sandwich, rice pudding or fruit juice, roast turkey sandwich, fish in cheese sauce, cottage cheese salad, vanilla ice cream, cheese and biscuits etc.

We continually strive to improve the service we offer and we are about to involve our patients in menu planning to ask them what they like or dislike, or would like to see on the hospital menu.