

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Jamie Brassington
Date of article	15.03.18
Headline	Dirty equipment delays operations
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	<p>Hospital patients had operations cancelled on the day at Russells Hall as equipment was too dirty for doctors to use, the Express & Star can reveal.</p> <p>Medical instruments returned dirty from the hospital’s sterilisation department forcing the last minute cancellation of three operations.</p> <p>The report, sent out by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust which runs the hospital, said: “We have had instruments returned from HSDU (Hospital Sterilisation and Decontamination Unit) either dirty or not in sufficient time for procedures to be undertaken resulting in on the day cancellations.”</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Express & Star contacted the The Dudley Group in relation to an internal Trust newsletter issued in February around the cancellation of operations due to instruments arriving late and dirty instruments being returned from the Hospital Sterilisation Decontamination Unit (HSDU).</p> <p>They asked the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would the Trust like to comment? • What does the Trust think about the cancellations due to dirty instruments and instruments arriving late? • Will the Trust take any action in response?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>We always do our best to make sure that operations and procedures go ahead as planned; however, sometimes we do have to rearrange operations due to unforeseen circumstances.</p> <p>We work closely with our partners and the instrument manufactures to ensure all our surgical instruments are maintained, cleaned and available for surgeries.</p>	

Our patients are our priority; therefore, if we are unable to safely perform an operation we will reschedule.

We recorded one incident in February involving dirty instruments which led to three cancelled operations.

We monitor every theatre list carefully and follow the national WHO checklist so that any issue are reported and learnt from. We share that learning with all relevant staff so that we continuously improve.

***** ENDS *****

Notes for editors

The journalist's source was not a report as stated in the article, it was an internal staff newsletter designed to inform and share learning.

For further information please contact Sara-Jayne Hadley, for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email dgft.communications@nhs.net.