

The statements below made by DR Wales, have also been echoed by individuals that we represent.

- The workforce was "depleted, stretched, tired" and unprepared for the opening of the new hospital, she said, and highlighted a staff sickness rate "in excess of 15%". (Which is now in excess of this figure)
- There was a shortage of doctors, she said, but that was "dwarfed by the nursing deficit".
- Efforts had been made to block-book temporary nursing staff, she added, but that there "remain many wards with inadequate/no staffing" at all at the health board's major hospitals including the new hospital.
- Trying to cope with the inpatients across four sites will inevitably reduce the ability to continue with elective work such as endoscopy. This presents further risk to our patients particularly in cancer work, where delays in diagnosis and treatment will cause increased mortality,"

With two of the Minor injury units virtually empty (as experienced by members of the council themselves), the A&E burden of the five Boroughs that feed the facility is weighing heavily on the shoulders of the Grange Hospital.

Your own staff update letter, from Health Board Corona Virus Strategic Group dated Saturday 12th of December 2020 states that *'we do not have enough staff to open more beds and we will be working with the emergency planning team to identify staff and ask if they are able to attend and support this weekend'*

It also says: *'we have consultants at GUH / RGH / NHH & YYF looking at discharging as many patients as possible – this is crucial to release capacity in the system'*

In respect to the above statement, the members were informed that the above has included patients who weren't well enough to be fully discharged. Could you elaborate on this?

It's also been stated that the Grange is operating on a staffing capacity of 50%, with Nevil Hall and the Royal Gwent also severely understaffed. This apparently resulted (with additional sickness leave) in only one nurse covering an entire ward at NHH on a particular evening during the Christmas period. Could you once again confirm or deny this statement? Any figures collated in terms of staffing during this transition period would be helpful in terms of developing an accurate picture of the situation.

We totally understand that a substantial number of staff are self-isolating due to COVID, but even prior to this many staff at the other hospital sites were making complaints due to colleagues being moved to the Grange leaving the existing hospitals/wards etc short-staffed with low morale, making certain situations