



📷 Ambulances wait outside the accident and emergency department of the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport on July 7, 2019. Six ambulances are visible in the picture with another four waiting in another part of the car park (Image: Rob Norman)



Nevertheless, any major incidents that occur in the future we feel would not be aleatory in nature, but merely an indicator of the lack of sufficient local provision, multiplied by distance, single lane and rural road provision and congested traffic indicators.

One A&E department covering such a vast area which includes: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen and South Powys it seems is an incredibly insufficient response to patient need and emergency care response. Although the new Hospital is state of the art and very welcome, staff levels and moral are heading in the opposite direction. Add to this the removal of staff from two existing hospitals to populate a third, leaving inadequate staffing across all three sites especially in the advent of COVID), is in the opinion of many NHS staff negligent and myopic. Opening the Grange in advance, without the correct staffing levels and downgrading existing operational facilities is it seems only going to cause more serious issues in the long term.

On a final note, the full ITU unit in Nevil Hall currently empty and unused, with many of the beds from this area being taken to the grange for emergency use only recently. Staff have conferred in confidence to the members that utilising this facility could have lessened/mitigated the burden on the Grange hospital's struggling services, which are under severe COVID and standard winter A&E stress simultaneously? We are firmly aware that the majority of staff that pollinate the Grange have been moved from the Gwent and Nevil Hall to the new hospital, but nevertheless, with emergency bank nursing protocols in place, this must surely be an option to lessen the burden on the Grange.