

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Clare Butler
<b>Date of article</b>	07.02.18
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Patients facing long waits at Russells Hall</b>
<b>Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group</b>	A&E waits are worsening for patients at Russells Hall Hospital, according to latest figures.  Nearly 3,000 patients visiting A&E at the Pensnett Road hospital faced waits of more than four hours during last month, it has been revealed.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	The Express & Star contacted the Trust about the December's A&E waiting times published in the February Board papers.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>The emergency access standard (95% of patients to be seen, treated, admitted or discharged within four hours) is not a measure of individuals or teams but one of the whole health and care system.</p> <p>We have had a variable performance towards this standard, as have many trusts across the country, and the challenge to meet this standard is not unique to Dudley.</p> <p>Our Emergency Department is extremely busy at the moment and we urge patients who do not have a serious or life threatening condition to use alternative health services; we will always see patients in order of clinical need and patients with minor injuries or ailments may have longer waits.</p> <p>Our staff are absolutely committed to providing the safest possible care to all of our patients and I wish to thank them for working incredibly hard in the most intense circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>*** ENDS ***</b></p> <p><b>Notes for editors</b></p> <p>For further information please contact Jackie Dietrich, for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email <a href="mailto:dqft.communications@nhs.net">dqft.communications@nhs.net</a>.</p>	