

OFFICE OF
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Summerfield House
2 Eday Road
Aberdeen
AB15 6RE



BY EMAIL

Richard Lochhead MSP

richard.lochhead.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Date 20 July 2015
Our Ref FOI/2015/262
Enquiries to Information Governance Team
Extension 51319
Direct Line 01224 551319
Email nhsg.foi@nhs.net

Dear Mr Lochhead,

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

I refer to your letter dated 12 June 2015 which we received on 18 June 2015, requesting:

- “1) The forum is of the understanding that patients with detached retina could be treated at Dr Gray's because the necessary medical staff are present but that the equipment is not. Is that the case? Are there any plans to look at current arrangements? How many people from the Gray's catchment area require this treatment on an annual basis?*
- 2) How many geriatric consultants work for NHS Grampian and what share does Dr Gray's get?*
- 3) The forum is concerned about the distances faced by families of patients who make use of 'step up, step down beds'. What is the latest position on this?*
- 4) In previous correspondence with the Forum, mention was made of a scoping exercise along the A96 corridor in relation to paediatric services. The Forum is keen to be furnished with further information in this regard.*
- 5) GP Services: The forum is keen to know the average length of time patients wait to see a GP in Moray, what level of weekend cover is offered by GPs and for information in relation to future investment for GP services in Elgin given current pressures.*
- 6) What capacity have medical and surgical beds run at Dr Gray's over the last couple of years?*
- 7) The forum is keen to have a breakdown of responsibilities between Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS Grampian.”*

I can now respond as follows:

The forum is of the understanding that patients with detached retina could be treated at Dr Gray's because the necessary medical staff are present but that the equipment is not. Is that the case? Are there any plans to look at current arrangements? How many people from the Gray's catchment area require this treatment on an annual basis?

Continued

Availability of equipment is not a factor in the provision of detached retina treatment for Moray residents. Treatment for a detached retina is performed only at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary as part of a defined patient pathway. We aim to provide care as close to people's homes as possible and in Moray have a wide range of eye care services available provided by local optometrists and the visiting Ophthalmology Consultants from Aberdeen. In the year to March 2015 there were <5 detached retina treatments undertaken on patients with Moray postcodes; please note small numbers have been presented as <5 as to provide the actual figure would identify the individuals concerned; s.38(1)(b) of the Act refers – Personal information.

How many geriatric consultants work for NHS Grampian and what share does Dr Gray's get?

There are 11 Consultants and 1 Honorary Consultant in the Department of Medicine for the Elderly in Grampian. Funding for an additional 3 has recently been agreed. Moray residents have access to the full services of the Department with one Consultant based at Dr Gray's Hospital.

The forum is concerned about the distances faced by families of patients who make use of 'step up, step down beds'. What is the latest position on this?

When an individual is ready for discharge home but their healthcare needs cannot yet be met there, they may be discharged to one of the 5 Community Hospitals throughout Moray or to a step up, step down bed in a care home. These care home beds are mainly available in Elgin for a period of two weeks. Discharge arrangements will fully involve families and efforts are made to place people as locally as possible.

In previous correspondence with the Forum, mention was made of a scoping exercise along the A96 corridor in relation to paediatric services. The Forum is keen to be furnished with further information in this regard.

There have been a number of national and local reviews of paediatric services which have highlighted the need to modernise how we deliver paediatric care in the future. The challenges, which are not unique to Grampian, include small volumes, workforce and training. In light of these reports, NHS Grampian has agreed to examine options for paediatric services. This will consider the most appropriate service configuration to deliver a modern service which is safe and sustainable for children and address the vulnerabilities. This work will be scoped out with partners (patients, carers, clinical staff from a range of disciplines) from across the region. It is anticipated that the examination of options will commence in the autumn.

GP Services: The forum is keen to know the average length of time patients wait to see a GP in Moray, what level of weekend cover is offered by GPs and for information in relation to future investment for GP services in Elgin given current pressures.

GP Practices are independent contractors and run their own appointment systems so these can vary from practice to practice. There are however a number of common approaches. Emergency appointments are usually obtainable by any patient who makes the practice aware that they need to be seen on the day by contacting the practice early in the morning. Alternatively it can be arranged for the duty practitioner to contact the patient by telephone. This allows for the problem to be discussed and resolved or the patient will be given a time to come to surgery to be seen. Some practices offer Emergency Care Practitioner/Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) appointments for patients. Historically, these appointments would have been with a GP but are appropriate for Practitioners with enhanced skills. A range of different types of appointments are accessible depending on the severity of problem or continuity of care.

Practice appointments are available for booking one month in advance. The availability of routine non emergency appointments is variable. Further more if a patient chooses to see a particular GP the time to allocate an appointment will be dependent on a number of factors including sessions worked, holidays etc.

The Board and the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership are currently working with two practices to look at future models of care for General Practice that are sustainable. This is being considered and supported within the context of integrated services. More broadly this will be taken forward via the General Practice Group and there will be opportunity to access resource to assist in improving services. The Government has just announced new monies to invest in Primary Care which includes General Practice. Moray Health and Social Care Partnership will work locally to ensure these are appropriately focused on improving services.

What capacity have medical and surgical beds run at Dr Gray's over the last couple of years?

Dr Gray's Hospital has 34 surgical beds and 30 orthopaedic beds, both of which have operated at an average occupancy of 85% over the last 2 years. There are 35 medical beds which have operated at approximately 98% occupancy over the last 2 years.

The forum is keen to have a breakdown of responsibilities between Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS Grampian.

From 1st April 2016, the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership will become the Moray Integrated Joint Board (IJB). This arrangement is in line with the rest of Scotland, in response to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act. These new arrangements delegate strategic planning, budgetary responsibility, operational management and governance to the new integration authority and for some acute sector services. For most acute services the budgetary management on a day to day basis, operations and governance remains with NHS Grampian.

Currently the Moray Integrated Joint Board is running in shadow form and does not have full delegation until April 2016. The Chief Officer for the new Moray Health and Social Care Partnership is the lead officer for the IJB and is accountable and line managed jointly by the Chief Executives of NHS Grampian and The Moray Council. The relationship is one of partnership. The new authority will be a public body in its own right, however the staff from both NHS Grampian and The Moray Council will remain employed by their respective parent bodies. The Integrated Joint Board will run as an independent legal entity and the Health and Social Care Partnership will be accountable to and directed by this new body. NHS Grampian remains a key partner in the delivery of future services and retains many of its statutory responsibilities, hence the requirement for the collaboration between partners. NHS Grampian retains, at the present time, the responsibility for the delivery of services through the Chief Officer until full delegation.

Within the core services delegated are all the community services traditionally managed by the Community Health Partnership. Dr Gray's Hospital will remain as part of the Acute Sector.

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Grampian has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

A request for review must be made within 40 working days and should, in the first instance, be in writing to: Directorate of Corporate Communications, Ashgrove House, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZN or by email to grampian@nhs.net

Requests for appeal should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner,
Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610, Fax: 01334 464611
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Yours sincerely

Alan Gray

Alan Gray
Director of Finance
NHS Grampian