



Northampton General Hospital
NHS Trust

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Chris Heaton-Harris MP
Member of Parliament for Northampton North
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

VIA EMAIL ONLY: chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Heaton Harris

Thank you for your letter which contained two emails both of which were asking about the situation regarding elective operating at Danetre Hospital.

We have had similar enquiries asking if Danetre Hospital has closed, whereas the situation is in fact quite the opposite. We are committed to fully maximising our use of the areas of the site that we occupy and currently operate outpatient, diagnostic (plain film x-rays) and a limited range of day surgery services at Daventry.

What has occurred in recent weeks is a need to temporarily relocate the day surgery services back to NGH due to a lack of staff in theatres for us to be able to safely operate the lists that we had planned. This is due to some vacancies and also staff illness. All other services continue as normal.

We undertake a smaller range of procedures at Daventry compared to the main hospital site because of its geographical distance from NGH. Patients undergoing procedures that require anaesthesia must be very carefully selected to ensure that it is safe to proceed without the full back-up services of the hospital. This means only relatively minor operations take place there. Irrespective of this, we need to be able to staff the theatre, recovery and ward area to support the procedures and it is this aspect that has led to the current situation. We are working to resolve this at present but all patients have been offered dates at NGH and none have been sent out of county and we are confident that patient waiting times will not be affected during this period.

In terms of the rent, NGH pays rent to NHS Property Services for its occupation of the site and this continues for all aspects of the areas we occupy at present. Our view is that patient safety comes ahead of all other considerations and it is for this reason the temporary move has taken place.

I hope that this reply is helpful but please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further information.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Needham
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust