

Closure of Dryden Road

Reference Number: RDF2314-24

Date of Response: 20/02/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

It is known that Devon County Council (DCC) consulted with the RD&E Hospital about the proposed Dryden Road closure. In the consultation it was suggested that the closure of Dryden Road would make pedestrian and cycle travel along Dryden Road safer for your staff. With that in mind could we please be advised of the following:

1. During the consultation process were the RD&E Hospital advised that no vehicular, cycle or indeed pedestrian counts would be, or had been, conducted along the full length of Bovemoors Lane to Haldon View Terrace?

Answer: We were not aware of any counts being undertaken.

2. Were the RD&E Hospital advised, or aware of, the number of their staff and visitors who use the 4 hospital access/exit points along Bovemoors Lane and Church Lane? (We believe more pedestrians use those access/exit points, than those using hospital access/exit points from above The Cedars entrance/exit to Barrack Road, thus making crossing the roads in this now busier area, potentially more dangerous for your staff and visitors etc).

Answer: We were not.

3. Has DCC made contact with the RD&E Hospital since the closure of Dryden Road and ascertained if you're still happy with the Dryden Road closure? If contact has been made, how often do they do so?

Answer: The Trust has been contacted once by DCC regarding the closure of Dryden Road since the closure. But not to ascertain if the Trust is still happy with the Dryden Road closure.

4. Has anyone from the RD&E Hospital officially made contact with DCC, expressing their concerns with any aspect of the Dryden Road closure, that may be negatively impacting upon your efficiency levels etc? That could include ambulance call-out times, delays in staff reporting for shifts, or even staff concerns for their safety around the local roads and the increased air pollution.

Answer: In January 2021, the Trust responded to DCC to highlight that the unintended consequence on Bovemoors Lane which is a critical route for the hospital for emergency access and the roadside parking has meant it becomes overcrowded.

The Trust sent a letter to DCC in April 2021 highlighting concerns for Bovemoors Lane, Church Lane and Haldon View Terrace where the traffic has increased significantly since the changes. It advised that a further unintended consequence is the impact to blue light services. The route into the Hospital Emergency Department for the blue light Ambulance service is often from Barrack Road into Haldon View Terrace via the Church Lane entrance or from Dryden Lane in to Bovemoors Lane via the Church Lane entrance.

The increased vehicular activity and subsequent congestion in these areas during peak times impedes the progress of the ambulances accessing the Emergency Department. The increased traffic flow further limits ease of access for the Fire & Rescue Services.

5. Has any member of the emergency staff, or indeed a member of the public, expressed their concerns at any delays in reaching A&E, because of the increase in traffic on the roads in the Bovemoors Lane area?

Answer: We are not aware of any concerns raised in relation to the above.