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13 November 2013

Dear Colleague,

**Re: Heanor Memorial Hospital**

I wanted to write and provide you with a further update about Heanor Memorial Hospital's asbestos removal, following a detailed specialist survey of the site.

As you will be aware, we called in qualified specialists to remove asbestos from the hospital's boiler room in September and during the course of the work we uncovered further repairs required to the boiler control system and pipework, which are ongoing.

There has never been any risk to our patients' safety from the asbestos, which is safely contained and not airborne. But in order for the removal work to go ahead – involving the shutdown of heating and hot water supplies – we have closed the main hospital building temporarily and have been looking after patients at nearby Ilkeston Community Hospital while the work goes ahead.

In view of these findings and the age of the hospital building, we asked for a specialist Asbestos Refurbishment Survey of the whole hospital site to get a clear picture of the likelihood of any further asbestos being present. That survey has now been presented to us and identifies the presence of asbestos in numerous parts of the building, most significantly asbestos debris and asbestos cement shutter board in the heating pipework ducts formed within the floors of the wards.

The extensive presence of asbestos, which compounds the defects previously identified, will make the necessary upgrading of the hospital's infrastructure – including a new heating system, rewiring, fire alarm systems and telecommunications – more complex and expensive.

Talks are ongoing between Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust and NHS Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group to find the best way forward. We will be in touch again just as soon as we have any further update to give you.

In the meantime, if you would you like to discuss any of this further with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch at the details below.



Yours sincerely,

**William Jones**  
**Director of Operations**

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