

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q Why don't the Health Board get more doctors in the Galloway Community Hospital?

A NHS Dumfries & Galloway has been trying to fill vacancies for several years. The aim is to recruit 5 more full-time doctors

Q Why don't you send doctors over from Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary (DGRI)?

A Anaesthetists from DGRI regularly provide cover and have done so for several years. There are not enough emergency department senior staff in DGRI to send. It is not appropriate to send junior staff.

Q Why don't NHS Dumfries & Galloway pay doctors more to work in Galloway Community Hospital?

A We do. In 2016/17 NHS Dumfries & Galloway paid £1.5 million to medical locums to maintain safe cover at Galloway Community Hospital.

Q Why don't doctors want to come to Stranraer?

A Young doctors say...

'too far away'
'no career progression'
'no employment for spouse'
'all my friends live in the central belt'
'professionally isolated'
'frightening job - need to deal with everything'
'worry about children's education'
'not enough support'
'too much overnight and weekend work'

Q GPs used to help out. Can't they help now?

A Recruiting GPs to Dumfries & Galloway is proving even more difficult. There are 11 existing GP vacancies. All of these have been vacant for at least 6 months (April 2017)

Q Is the new DGRI being built at the cost of Stranraer Services?

A No. Most of the cost for the new hospital comes from Scottish Government. Money is being spent at Galloway Community Hospital to upgrade the renal dialysis unit and improve operating theatre and endoscopy facilities.

Q What is the plan of action?

A Work is already underway to:

- Continue recruitment efforts
- Work with Scottish Ambulance Service and National Trauma Network to develop clinical pathways to ensure people are taken to the most appropriate hospital in the first instance
- Continue use of locum doctors
- Increase training for doctors already in post (for example to intubate and resuscitate people who require it)
- Develop Advanced Nurse Practitioners to support emergency department and wards

Other options being considered include:

- Paramedic support to the emergency department
- Making better use of Technology Enabled Care