

**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2425/346

**Subject:** Rehabilitation Facilities at Frenchay Hospital Site

*I can confirm that the ICB does hold the information requested; please see responses below:*

| QUESTION  | RESPONSE  |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did the Minister for Health &amp; Social Care ask for any information from the BNSSG ICB since March 2024 to 17th December 2024 and when was it requested?</li> <li>2. What information did the BNSSG ICB give to Wes Streeting, Minister for Health &amp; Social Care, or to any civil servants acting on his behalf and when was that or all of the information given?</li> <li>3. Can I have sight of that information, please?</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We were asked to provide information to DHSC on 8 May 2024, via NHS England.</li> <li>2/3. Please find attached FOI.ICB-2425/335 which provides the information requested.</li> </ol> |

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 7 January 2025 and has been approved for release by Sarah Truelove, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer and Jen Bond, Director of Communications and Engagement for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***

**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2425/335

**Subject:** Frenchay Community Hospital

*I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:*

| QUESTION   | RESPONSE  |
|--|---|
| <p>Clarification received:</p> <p>In March of this year, I filled in a Call-in form to the Call-in Team at the DHSC requesting Wes Streeting to intervene and Call-in the reconfiguration of our health care which, after 20 years still has not produced the long-awaited and necessary community hospital.</p> <p>In their response which was a rejection referred to "Information provided by BSSNG". I wish to know what information was supplied to the Call-in Team by BNSSG, please?</p> <p>There is also a reference to "The Independent Reconfiguration Panel's north Bristol and south Gloucestershire initial assessments of 17 March 2024" which, as a matter of course and courtesy, would have been shared with the BNSSG ICB.</p> |   |
| <p>Could I have a copy of the IRPs initial assessment of 17 March 2024, please? If not, why not?</p>   | <p>BNSSG ICB does not hold this information. The IRPs initial assessment of 17 March 2024 was not shared with the ICB.</p> <p>Correspondence from the DHSC to the ICB outlining their assessment and request for information is in the enclosed email trail, first dated 3 May 2024, (Document 1). Please note that third party personal information has been redacted.</p> |
| <p>Could I have a copy of the information BSSNG gave to the Call-in Team of the DHSC, please? If not, why not?</p>   | <p>The information supplied to the Call-in Team is enclosed. (Document 2).</p>  |

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 30 December 2024 and has been approved for release by Sarah Truelove, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer and Jen Bond, Director of Communications and Engagement for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***

**From:** [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C)  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C); [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C); [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C); [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C); [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C); [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C); [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C)  
**Subject:** For information, in-put and sign off: Call-in request - Rehabilitation services Frenchay - Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire  
**Date:** 08 May 2024 12:21:29  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Re Ministerial debate - Frenchay - COP today \(3 July\).msg](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear all,

Please see below email that has come into me with a request for information to send back to DHSC and Sec of State.

Save our Frenchay Community Hospital Group have requested that DHSC call in proposals by us for the 40 – 50 rehab beds at Frenchay site together with the elderly care beds in a care home.

The concerns raised include:

- Concerns with the process followed by the ICB/Trust
- Concerns that the reconfiguration has not been completed after 20 years and that overall beds have been reduced
- That no evidence has been provided by the previous CCG or ICB that proposals for the site are adequate and suggests that plans will not meet needs of growing population.
- Concerns that the ICBs Discharge to Action home-based rehabilitation programme's outcomes are not being monitored

ParlyHub provided the attached information for a PO back in March 2023.

Region have requested that to help inform their advice to SofS re their decision about whether to use their call-in powers, it would be useful to have the following information:

- An update from the ICB on their plans for the rehabilitation facilities on the Frenchay site and wider plans re community rehabilitation services. If plans are set out in any local strategy documents this is helpful to see.
- A bit of clarification about who now owns the land. It seems that most/all of it has been sold to developers and houses are being built on the site
- Whether there has been any interest/engagement with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee or MPs over the last few years on the issue

We need to provide this to region no later than the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> May for it to go through sign off process at region via [REDACTED].

We are just pulling together all of the various briefings and information we have on this and have provided and cross checking correspondence, meetings etc where we've discussed and briefed on this.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED], are you happy to approve the information we send to region about this to help inform their decision.

[REDACTED], we may need to just cross reference some things with you too.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Deputy Director of Communications and Engagement**

**NHS Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB)**

Press office: 0300 123 4476

W: [bnssg.icb.nhs.uk](https://bnssg.icb.nhs.uk)

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Floor 2, North Wing, 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6AG

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**From:** [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 10:51 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NHS BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ICB - 15C)  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24); [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24); [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24); [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24)

**Subject:** FW: Call-in request - Rehabilitation services Frenchay - Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire - COP 15 May

Hi [REDACTED]

It was great to meet earlier today.

I was wondering whether you would be able to advise on the correct person to approach regarding the following.

A request has been made by the Save Frenchay Community Hospital Group, relating to the creation of 40-50 rehabilitation beds at the Frenchay site together with elderly care beds in a care home.

As you can see the timescale for response is very tight and the COO office wants a response by lunchtime on the 14<sup>th</sup> May which would require [REDACTED] to sign off from region in advance.

With this in mind we would need the response back to us by mid morning at the very latest on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

We are ready to support where possible.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Senior Strategy and Transformation Manager  
NHS England – South West

W: [www.england.nhs.uk](https://www.england.nhs.uk)

Plumer House | Tailour Road | Crownhill | Plymouth | PL6 5DH

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**From:** [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 10:10 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24) [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** NHSCOO, England (NHS ENGLAND - X24) <[england.nhscoo@nhs.net](mailto:england.nhscoo@nhs.net)>; [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24); [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24); [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24); [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24)

**Subject:** FW: Call-in request - Rehabilitation services Frenchay - Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire - COP 15 May

Dear [REDACTED],

I hope you are well. Please see below request received from departmental officials relating to reconfiguration services at Frenchay Community Hospital Group.

I should be grateful if you could provide a note responding to the questions below

and send back to me by lunchtime Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May for internal clearances. Thanks so much and please do copy in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as usual.

[REDACTED]  
CEO/COO Office, NHS England

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:53 PM

**To:** NHSCOO, England (NHS ENGLAND - X24) <england.nhscoo@nhs.net>; [REDACTED]  
(NHS ENGLAND – X24) [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24)

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk;

[REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND – X24)

[REDACTED]; NHSCEO, England (NHS ENGLAND – X24) <england.nhsceo@nhs.net>;

[REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND - X24) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (NHS  
ENGLAND – X24) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Call-in request - Rehabilitation services Frenchay - Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire - COP 15 May

Dear [REDACTED]

The Department has received a request on behalf of Save Frenchay Community Hospital Group to call in proposals by Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire ICB for 40-50 rehabilitation beds at the Frenchay site together with elderly care beds in a care home.

The concerns raised include:

- Concerns with the process followed by the ICB/Trust
- Concerns that the reconfiguration has not been completed after 20 years and that overall beds have been reduced
- That no evidence has been provided by the previous CCG or ICB that proposals for the site are adequate and suggests that plans will not meet needs of growing population.
- Concerns that the ICBs Discharge to Action home-based rehabilitation programme's outcomes are not being monitored

We received some information from ParlyHub for a PO back in March 2023 (attached)

To help inform our advice to SofS re their decision about whether to use their call-in powers, it would be useful to have the following information:

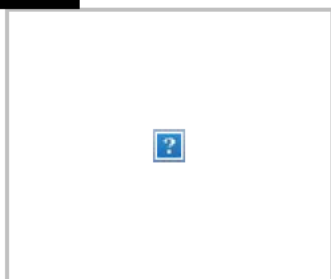
- An update from the ICB on their plans for the rehabilitation facilities on the Frenchay site and wider plans re community rehabilitation services. If plans are set out in any local strategy documents this is helpful to see.
- A bit of clarification about who now owns the land. It seems that most/all of it has been sold to developers and houses are being built on the site
- Whether there has been any interest/engagement with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee or MPs over the last few years on the issue

We would be grateful for information by **COP Wednesday 15 May** if possible, but do flag if there

are any issues.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]



[Redacted]  
Policy Manager, NHS Trust Policy,  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU

[Redacted]

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**From:** [HUB, Parly \(NHS ENGLAND - X24\)](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Ministerial debate - Frenchay - COP today (3 July)  
**Date:** 04 July 2023 14:33:34  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

The team have reviewed the previous lines provided and have nothing further to add.


Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Senior Case Officer  
Parliamentary Hub  
Communications | Office of the Chief Strategy Officer  
NHS England

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Mob:** [REDACTED]

 Call me on teams

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 July 2023 10:21  
**To:** HUB, Parly (NHS ENGLAND – X24) <parly.hub@nhs.net>  
**Subject:** Ministerial debate - Frenchay - COP today (3 July)

Hi NHS Parly,

The Minister has a debate on Wednesday about Thornbury Health Centre and the MP (Luke Hall) in his speech will be talking about Frenchay Hospital site (see below)

We already have the lines below from yourself from March. I would be grateful if you could just check with the Trust if there have been any updates since the lines below were provided below?

**I would be grateful for a response by COP.**

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** HUB, Parly (NHS ENGLAND – X24) <parly.hub@nhs.net>  
**Sent:** 02 March 2023 16:41  
**To:** [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: POC-1427121- Southmead and Frenchay

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find our contribution below:

We remain committed to our plans for new rehabilitation facilities on the Frenchay site, and are working hard to progress these with our partners, including our colleagues at South Gloucestershire Council – both officers and elected members.

The new health and social care facilities at Frenchay are a key element in our plans to transform and improve rehabilitation care for local people in South Gloucestershire. When complete, they will provide a 40 to 50-bed centre of excellence for intensive rehabilitation, co-located with new extra care housing. We're continuing to make good progress on our plans working with the local authority and other partners. During 2022, property agents undertook a market testing exercise which confirmed commercial interest in the development. We are now working with the local authority to carry out the business case process which will identify building design and procurement options for the facilities.

These developments form part of a much wider increase in community rehabilitation and reablement capacity in our area over the last decade, which is helping us to support many more people to return home sooner following an inpatient stay and in turn relieving pressure on local hospital beds.

For example, our Discharge to Assess and Home First programmes focus on home-based rehabilitation, while for people who need care in a more formal setting we also commission rehabilitation beds in a range of community facilities and nursing homes across the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area.

Reducing delayed discharges from hospital remains a high priority for our system and we are continuing to invest in measures to improve discharge processes, reduce length of stay, and ensure that everyone can move on from hospital - including those in Southmead Hospital - once they are medically well enough to do so.

I hope that the above will be useful.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Case Officer


Parliamentary Hub

Communications | Office of the Chief Strategy Officer

NHS England

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Mob:** [REDACTED]

 Call me on teams [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 28 February 2023 13:40

**To:** HUB, Parly (NHS ENGLAND – X24) <[parly.hub@nhs.net](mailto:parly.hub@nhs.net)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** POC-1427121- Southmead and Frenchay

Hi NHS Parly,

We have received a POC regarding reconfiguration of Health Services in South Gloucestershire and specifically plans for the Frenchay site.

Minister Quince has taken an interest in this and would like an update, we also need to respond to the MPs constituent. Could we please have the following:

- An update on progress of plans for the Frenchay site, including what engagement has/is happening with the local authority and other partners?
- Anything we can say in response to the point about there being a shortfall of intermediate and acute beds as set out in the text below:

“In 2010, the combined bed state for Frenchay and Southmead was 1120 acute beds prior to reconfiguration. The new Southmead PFI hospital has only 800 acute beds. [We lost 320 acute beds.](#) The last retiring Chief Executive Officer, Andrea Young, finally admitted in December 2020, that the acute hospital at Southmead was 200 beds short of the requirement, a fact which we had repeatedly pointed out but which the NHS repeatedly denied. On any day **there are between 130 and 170 ‘bed-blockers’ in Southmead Hospital due to a lack of intermediate care beds for discharged patients. Beds in eight private care homes locally are also being used instead of NHS provision**”.

We asked NHS Parly for an update in Aug 2022, follow receipt of a PO from the same person. In case useful, this was the information provided then:

### **Frenchay**

The new health and social care facilities at Frenchay are a key element in our plans to transform and improve rehabilitation care for local people in South Gloucestershire.

When complete, they will provide a 40 to 50-bed centre of excellence for intensive rehabilitation, co-located with a new build residential/nursing home facility alongside new extra care housing.

We’re continuing to make good progress on our plans working with the local authority and other partners, and are pleased to have now appointed a real estate agent to lead on the development of the site including the build specification and the outline site plan.

**Background: Last discussed at Governing Body April 2021**  
**Governing Body paper 6 April 2021: Item 6.2 | NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG (bnssgccg.nhs.uk)**

Kind regards,



[Redacted]  
Policy Manager, NHS Trust Policy,  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU  
[Redacted]  
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**Bristol, North Somerset  
and South Gloucestershire**  
Integrated Care Board

BNSSG ICB BRIEFING

**Call-in request: Rehabilitation services in Frenchay, Bristol**

14 May 2024

**Plans for rehabilitation facilities on the Frenchay site**

The vision for health and social care facilities for the former Frenchay Hospital site was established by the former South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and South Gloucestershire Council (SGC), following public consultation in 2010 and 2013.

As the CCG did not have the powers to own, lease or develop property, development of the site has been led by South Gloucestershire Council working in partnership with the CCG.

The merged Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG confirmed a requirement for 50 rehabilitation beds for the Frenchay site in April 2018. South Gloucestershire Council confirmed in January 2020 that it was seeking to commission 12 extra care units on the Frenchay site alongside a larger extra care scheme on the old Thornbury Hospital site.

Plans to bring the Frenchay site to market and develop the site, were set out in 2021 and a market testing exercise took place in 2022.

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB) remains committed to the development of new rehabilitation facilities on the Frenchay site as a key element in our plans to transform and improve rehabilitation care for local people. We have continued to work closely with the local authority to progress the business case process.

This work will be informed by a strategic review of population needs across the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area, which we are aiming to complete over the next 12 months and which will help to shape the full business case for the Frenchay development.

**Wider plans re community rehabilitation services**

The proposed facilities at Frenchay are part of a wider expansion in out-of-hospital community rehabilitation services in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire over the last decade.

This aims to support local people to return home sooner following a hospital inpatient stay, or avoid admission altogether, through increased provision of home-based and bedded community rehabilitation services (Discharge to Assess / Home First).

The work has accelerated in recent years under the BNSSG Discharge to Assess Transformation Programme which has seen further expansion in community rehabilitation capacity as well as transformation of local hospital discharge processes and greater use of home-based rehabilitation pathways.

This work is delivering positive results, with significant reductions in length of stay for patients discharged to our D2A pathways, eg. between March 2023 and March 2024, people in our area spent less time in hospital prior to a D2A discharge, equivalent to about 128 beds freed for adult inpatient care. We have also seen a reduction in the number of people discharged to bedded facilities and an increase in those being discharged to home-based pathways with wrap around support.

We continue to monitor the work of the D2A Transformation Programme with a comprehensive set of key performance indicators and outcomes monthly as a system via the discharge to assess board reporting to the community HCIG.

The individual providers also have internal governance routes that allow us to monitor organisation and system performance including the outcomes of the discharge to assess pathways including home-based rehabilitation.

### **Land ownership**

Land for the rehabilitation facility and ECH provision is retained at the site under the ownership of North Bristol NHS Trust pending the outcome of business case development to determine the future ownership model. Land not required for the proposed development has been sold for housing development.

### **Engagement with Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee / MPs**

The ICB has briefed regularly on developing plans for Frenchay over the last few years.

The most recent detailed briefing to HOSC was in March 2023, and the development was discussed further as part of a briefing on the ICS 2040 Service Plan in April 2024.

Updates were provided to Jack Lopresti MP in March and May 2024 following a query to Mr Lopresti from the Frenchay Residents Association.

### **Key local strategy documents:**

- [Delivering Healthier Together: Getting to a population-need focused Service Plan for 2040](#) (report to South Gloucestershire HOSC, April 2024)

- [Thornbury and Frenchay hospital sites redevelopment: progress update](#) (report to South Gloucestershire HOSC, March 2023)
- [D2A Programme Update](#) (report to South Gloucestershire HOSC, October 2023)