

PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Trust welcomes feedback from members of the public. We are committed to delivering the best care and constantly looking at ways to improve the services we provide at our hospitals. There are a variety of ways in which you can give your feedback. These are:-

- As a patient or visitor to the hospital by completing a comment card which is available on wards and departments.
- By contacting the Patient and Liaison Service (PALS) who offer confidential, impartial help, advice or support to any aspect of a patient's care. The team aim to help resolve issues and concerns speedily by liaising with appropriate staff on your behalf. PALS can be contacted by phone on 0800 019 3282; by text on 07827 281 266; by e-mail pals@gloucestershirehospitals@glos.nhs.uk or by writing to the PALS Office, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Gloucester GL1 3NN. Complaints can be made to the Complaints Team by phoning 0300 422 5777, by e-mail complaints.team@glos.nhs.uk or by writing to the Complaints Team at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital/at the above address.
- By asking a question at our Board meeting by following the procedure below. Board meetings are open to the public and are normally held on the last Friday of the month at Trust HQ, 1 College Lawn, Cheltenham. Meetings normally start at 9.00am

All feedback is taken seriously and is used to either praise staff for the excellent care or service they have provided or used to make improvements where needed.

Written questions for the Board Meeting

People who live or work in the county or are affected by the work of the Trust (including members of the Trust who live outside of the County) may ask the Chair of the Trust Board a question on any matter which is within the powers and duties of the Trust.

Ten minutes will be allocated at the end of the public section of each Board meeting for written questions from the public to be answered. Where it is not possible for all written questions to be dealt with within this timeframe a written response will be provided to the questioner and copied to all Board members within 7 working days of the meeting. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair may extend the time period for public questions.

Notice of questions

A question may only be asked if it has been submitted in writing to the Trust Secretary by 12.00 noon 3 clear working days before the date of the Board meeting. Each question must give the name and address of the questioner. If a question is being asked on behalf of an organization then the name of the organization must be stated. Written questions are to be submitted to the Trust Secretary, 1 College Lawn, Cheltenham, GL53 7AT or by e-mail to martin.wood@glos.nhs.uk No more than 3 written questions may be submitted by each questioner.

Procedure

At the Board meeting the questioner, if present, will be invited to read out the question. If absent, the Chair may read out the question. A written answer will be provided to a written question and will be given to the questioner and to members of the Trust Board before being read out at the meeting by the Chair. Copies of the questions and the responses will be recorded in the minutes.

Additional Questions

A questioner who has submitted a written question may, with the consent of the Chair, ask an additional oral question arising directly out of the original question or the reply.

An answer to an oral question will take the form of either:

- a direct oral answer; or
- if the information required is not easily available a written answer will be sent to the questioner and circulated to all members of the Trust Board.

Unless the Chair decides otherwise there will not be discussion on any public question.

Written questions may be rejected and oral questions need not be answered when the Chair considers that they:

- are not on any matter that is within the powers and duties of the Trust;
- are defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- are substantially the same as a question that has been put to a meeting of the Trust Board and been answered in the past six months; or
- would require the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

For further information, please contact Martin Wood, Trust Secretary on 0300 422 2932 by e-mail martin.wood@glos.nhs.uk