



Media Release

24TH August 2007

LIFTS OUT OF COMMISSION IN TYRONE COUNTY AND T&F

The Western Trust has advised that as a precautionary health and safety measure, it has temporarily taken four passenger/bed lifts out of service – two in Tyrone County Hospital and two in the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital. The Trust has apologised for the inconvenience this is likely to cause to patients, staff and visitors and is working with the lift agent to ensure the lifts are back in service as quickly as possible.

The decision has been taken following a 10-year statutory inspection by an independent inspector, which indicated that while the lifts are all in working order, a safety device called a 'speed governor' has been found to be outside normal tolerances.

The Trust has put contingency plans in place in the Tyrone County to minimise disruption to services and to allow staff and visitors access to upper floors via another entrance. It has also made arrangements to re-start one of the lifts in a medical emergency. Arrangements are being made in the T&F to minimise inconvenience.

Explaining the decision, Mr. Will Doran, the Trust's Assistant Director for Facilities Management, said that the public should be reassured that the lifts comply with all statutory inspection requirements and are regularly maintained, and that this decision is purely precautionary.

“We recognise that this will be inconvenient for some people and we will be doing our very best to get things back to normal as soon as possible,” he said.

“All of our lifts are maintained in working order so the chances of something failing that would need the speed governor to work is extremely slim. However, we have taken the advice of the inspection body to put the lifts out of commission and have put contingency plans in place to try to minimise disruption. We would ask patients, staff and visitors to bear with us while this is being resolved”, he added.

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