



**1. This document outlines the reasons why the Trust temporarily reduced the opening hours at LVH ED.**

**Question:** Do you consider that temporarily reducing the opening hours of the department was a reasonable response to the patient safety concerns outlined in the document? (If no, please provide alternative proposals).

**2. The Trust has implemented a 'Phone First' model to mitigate the risk to patient safety and proposes temporarily renaming the department an 'Urgent Care Centre' to better reflect the services provided.**

**Question:** Do you consider these actions are reasonable and will address some of the challenges faced by the service and facilitate patients receiving treatment in a timely, suitable and safe environment based on their clinical need? (If no, please provide any further or alternative actions that could be taken).

**3. The outcome of initial equality screening considerations is available on the Trust website at <https://setrust.hscni.net/getinvolved/consultations/>.**

**Question:** Do you have any further views on the assessed impact of the proposals and any other potential impacts you feel we should consider?

**4. The Rural Needs Act places a duty on public authorities, including government departments, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services.**

**The Trust's Rural Needs Assessment for this consultation is available on the Trust website at <https://setrust.hscni.net/getinvolved/consultations/>.**

**Question:** Do you have any evidence to suggest that the actions taken by the Trust create an adverse differential impact?

## 5. General comments

Please provide any other comments that you wish to make.

*Before you submit your response, please read the following section on Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.*

### **Trust Response and Freedom of Information Act (2000)**

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust will publish an anonymised summary of the responses received to our consultation process. However, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, particular responses may be disclosed on request, unless an exemption(s) under the legislation applies.

Under the FOIA anyone has the right to request access to information held by public authorities; the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is such a public body. Trust decisions in relation to the release of information that the Trust holds are governed by various pieces of legislation, and as such the Trust cannot automatically consider responses received as part of any consultation process as exempt. However, confidentiality issues will be carefully considered before any disclosures are made.