

For the Record – Press Statements

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Reporter	Bev Holder
Headline	Under-fire hospital chief defends trust governors
First paragraph/s of article	A HOSPITAL chief has hit back at comments made by a former Russells Hall governor that they were merely “rubber-stampers” and unable to raise important issues with directors.
Press enquiry	Bev Holder has received a claim form a former governor that while he was in post governors were told they were not allowed to raise issues relating to operational matters. Is this the case and would we like to comment?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM JOHN EDWARDS, CHAIRMAN, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>The Council of Governors exists to reassure the local communities that The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is being effectively run by the Board of Directors. Dudley was one of the pioneers of the Governor model and operated its Council of Governors in shadow form for many months before this was made a requirement to ensure they were trained and ready to go before formal authorisation as a Foundation Trust in 2008.</p> <p>Our Governors reassure themselves through a variety of channels, they have regular meetings with executive and non executive directors and senior managers of the Trust on specific topics and issues, receive reports at their full council meetings for debate on key performance indicators.</p> <p>They actively seek the views of their local communities and feed these back into the Trust Board and take part in Patient Safety walk rounds to gain the views of patients for the Board. They have regular contact with the board of directors often daily and can raise any concerns or issues they have openly.</p> <p>It is not a role of the Council of Governors to be involved in the day to day running of the Trust as that is the job of the Board of Directors but they are there to reassure themselves this is being done appropriately and if not to challenge those decisions.</p> <p>*** ENDS ***</p>	