

**18 August 2011****Communications Department**

Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230

communication@ruh.nhs.uk

www.ruh.nhs.uk

**Press Release****RUH among the best in the South West for same sex wards**

More patients than ever before in the South West are staying in same sex accommodation during their time in hospital. The numbers staying in mixed sex areas has fallen dramatically and figures released today show that since December 2010, the number of breaches – the numbers of patients who do spend some time inappropriately in mixed sex areas – has also fallen. There were 1,181 reported breaches in December 2010, compared to 131 in July 2011 – a drop of 1,050.

The RUH had just 3 breaches in July, putting it among the best achieving hospitals in the South West and indeed nationally. (see table below in notes)

To support the Government's goal to eliminate mixed sex accommodation and improve privacy and dignity in hospitals, the Health Secretary has announced today that any future capital investments in NHS hospitals – whether brand new or refurbishments - should consider having a minimum of 50 per cent single en-suite rooms. This will include hospitals in the South West and will also improve isolation facilities for infection control.

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said:

“Single-sex accommodation is what people in the South West can now expect. By introducing greater transparency, this Government has driven down breaches in the region by 89 per cent in eight months. There are 1,050 fewer people suffering the indignity of staying on mixed-sex wards.

“NHS South West has done a fantastic job getting to grips with this. But no patient should have to suffer the indignity of mixed sex accommodation. We are determined to put an end to this practice where it is not clinically justified. This is why hospitals face fines of £250 for every breach, which can then be reinvested back into patient care.”

A key element of the RUH's £40m estates plan is to develop and increase the number of en-suite and single rooms we offer our patients. At present only 21% of our patient accommodation is in the form of single rooms. We want to increase that to 50% and ensure where possible, all new single rooms will be en suite.

**ENDS****Notes to editors:**

1. A full statistical press notice, with further explanatory notes is available at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Perfomedataandstatistics/MixedSexAccommodation/index.htm>
2. In December 2010, hospitals across England reported that 11,802 patients stayed in mixed-sex accommodation, compared to 1,126 in July 2011 - a drop of 10,676. The data also shows that 115 Acute Trusts (69 per cent) reported zero breaches in July 2011.
3. In July 2011, hospitals in England reported that 1,126 patients were placed in mixed-sex accommodation without any justification. This compares to 1,933 for June 2011 – a

decrease of 42 per cent.

4. Overall, the percentage of single-bed rooms as a proportion of total available beds continues to increase. Within the last decade, there has been a significant increase from 22.6 per cent to 32.7 per cent. In actual bed numbers, this means that 10,486 more single-bed rooms are now available for patient use.
5. Each trust makes an informed choice regarding the appropriate percentage of single room provision based on practical considerations such as site restrictions, affordability as well as clinical and operational limitations. In some cases, providing single rooms for all patients may not be clinically appropriate. The RUH closely involves patients in decisions about accommodation provision and their preferences for where they stay where possible

<b>Hospital Trust in the South West strategic Health Authority.</b>	<b>Number of Mixed Sex Breaches in July 2011</b>
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	52
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6
North Bristol NHS Trust	0
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	4
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	2
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	24
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	0
Royal National Hospital For Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust	0
<b>Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust</b>	<b>3</b>
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	15
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	0
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	22
The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	3
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	0
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0