

# News release



**22 February 2005**

## **Trolley Waits at Craigavon Area Hospital**

The winter season has brought with it the usual trolley waits in the Accident & Emergency Department at Craigavon Area Hospital, according to the Southern Health and Social Services Council. The Council, which monitors the provision of health and social care services in the Southern Area, is concerned that over the Christmas and New Year period there was a sharp rise in patients requiring admission to hospital but unable to be allocated a bed.

Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman of the Council says, "The Hospital's own figures show that from the Christmas into January there was a rise in patients waiting on trolleys for over two hours. Anecdotally, the Council has information that some patients were waiting for a number of hours in quite distressing circumstances. There is always pressure on the service at this time of year but it is disappointing that once again the problem of trolley waits has surfaced. The Council urges Craigavon Area Hospital and the Southern Health & Social Services Board to ensure that next year the increased demand at this time of the year is managed better."

## **Notes to Editors:**

- **The Southern Health and Social Services Council is one of 4 Health and Social Services Councils set up in 1991 to represent the views of patients and users of the health and social services. The Council has a total of 24 members, 40% of whom are nominated by District Councils in the Southern Area. The remainder are appointed by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – 30% voluntary/community representatives and 30% are nominees with an interest in health and social care.**
- **Health and Social Services Councils have a right to be consulted by Health and Social Services Boards about and plans for development of services, or where significant changes are being considered. Councils play an important part in representing the views of consumers of services to the decision makers, and provide advice and support to patients and service users in relation to complaints procedures.**

**If you require any further information please contact :**

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**The Council's website address is: [www.shsscouncil.net](http://www.shsscouncil.net)**