Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

**Request**

1. Is the Trust planning to use GPs within any of its emergency departments over the winter months?

2. Has the Trust recruited/is the Trust planning to recruit GPs to staff its emergency departments over the winter months? If so, how many will be/have been recruited? If so, please confirm (i) the cost of recruitment and (ii) the planned duration of the post(s).

3. If the Trust is planning to use GPs in A&E departments, how will they fit into the current system/how will they be used?

4. If the Trust is planning to use GPs in A&E departments, why is this necessary?

5. If the Trust is NOT planning to use GPs in A&E departments, will it be necessary to employ more consultants/nurses/locums for this coming winter? If so, why?

**Reply**

1. The Trust has GPs routinely working on our Middle Grade rota and this arrangement has been in place for some time.

2. As part of winter planning, the Trust is recruiting GP colleagues to work evening see and treat twilight shifts. 4 have been recruited.

3. We are putting on an additional cover in the evening with locum middle grade doctors to cover a shortfall in the staffing and to cover a change in patient attendance behaviour.

4. We are putting on an additional cover in the evening with locum middle grade doctors to cover a shortfall in the staffing and to cover a change in patient attendance behaviour.

5. N/A.