

**Patients in Partnership (PiP)
Wednesday 23rd March 2011
Questions and Answers – all presentations / panel members**

No	Questions	Response
1.	What is the added value of being a Foundation Trust and is there a risk of being independent from the Department of Health?	The Monitor Assessment has looked at the Trust's finances, clinical quality, infection control and patient experience. If Monitor believes that we can be a Foundation Trust, it will approve our application, otherwise it will refuse. Once authorised as a Foundation Trust, we will be accountable to the Council of Governors and our members.
2.	Applying to become a Foundation Trust has been very time consuming and the time could have been used for other work.	Although the Trust has been busy during the Foundation Trust process, the standards of care delivered at the Trust have improved. Reference was made to the Ombudsman report and the fact that Monitor had sought assurance from the Trust that older people were treated with care, compassion, dignity and respect.
3.	Reference was made to a problem with the distribution of election papers during the recent election of two Public Governors in the North Constituency.	The London Borough of Hillingdon Electoral Services Department conducted the elections for the two vacant Governor positions in the North Constituency. The mailing of the papers was contracted out to an external company who send the voting papers without the nomination information. The mistake was corrected immediately with members receiving the nomination information within 48 hours.
4.	The Trust had invited members to join a Nutrition focus group during 2010 which had met on one occasion. A member enquired when a second meeting would be arranged.	The focus group attracted a very small number of participants and therefore it has been decided to delay organising further meetings until becoming a Foundation Trust and being able to offer the opportunity of joining the group to a broader membership.
5.	With the phasing out of Hillingdon PCT, will the Trust be awarded many contracts?	The Trust does not anticipate a reduction in the number of contracts

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6.	Reference was made to GPs referring patients living in Higher Denham to Wexham Park Hospital and not Hillingdon Hospital for diagnostic tests.	The Trust would follow up this comment.
7.	Some members expressed an interest in knowing more about the process of how doctors are appointed and the safeguards that are in place.	The Trust could plan a workforce presentation at a future meeting of Patients in Partnership to cover this subject.