



Statement to SOAS group from the Bishops of Clogher



'As bishops of the Church of Ireland and Catholic Church in the dioceses of Clogher, we support the statement by the Fermanagh Christian Leaders Fraternal regarding threatened permanent closure of emergency surgery at SWAH'

'We too express our deep concern at the potential permanent withdrawal of vital services from parishioners resident in the Co Fermanagh and surrounding areas, where there is poor public transport and inadequate travel links to alternative hospitals.

'We live in one of the most remote parts of NI and believe our communities have a right to equal treatment to other areas of the province.

'We support calls for a more genuine consultation, which should include community leaders and those most affected by the change, along with a response to provide effective acute health services to reflect the needs of the area.

'We believe our communities should be provided with access to appropriate and expert surgical care within easy reach of where we live.

'We believe as Christian leaders that our society has a duty to provide health care services to its citizens which will meet the needs of body, mind and spirit, that all may find, in the words of Christ, 'life in all its fullness'.

'We ask for a speedy resolution to this issue as the continued uncertainty adds further worry and inconvenience to people in the area'.

- Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis

- Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher, Most Revd Larry Duffy