

New Treatment Centre in Nottingham

By Jamaal and Joe

A new treatment centre is being built next to Queen's Medical Centre (QMC) in Nottingham. It will open in December 2007.

Professor Angus Wallace is a consult orthopaedic surgeon who believes the private facility could take basic work from the NHS, leaving the QMC with more expensive operations. He also sees the benefits the centre will bring.

Private company Nations Healthcare will be paid by the NHS to run the centre.

Nation's Healthcare say the new facility, offering NHS patients rapid, 'one-stop' access to diagnostic tests, outpatients assessments and day treatments across a range of specialities, will free the hospital to focus on more complex work.

Professor Wallace argued it would put more financial pressure on the hospital.

He said: "They are in financial trouble and the chief executive is working very hard to try and resolve that.

"Unfortunately this step with Nations is going to make his job even harder, because balancing the books when you're doing a high proportion of high risk cases is difficult."

Dr. Doug Black from Nations Healthcare said the development would compliment the main hospital.

He told the BBC: "A lot of people will be coming here and I think that the main benefit for patients is that this facility provides increased capacity within the local health economy."