# Royal Victoria Hospital removes unauthorised VE Day display amid concerns over inclusivity



Staff at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast have recently been reminded of their obligation to maintain a harmonious environment after an unauthorised VE Day display was erected in ward 5E, dedicated to elderly patients including those with dementia. The display, which featured a Union flag draped over a hospital trolley alongside newspaper clippings, balloons, and historic photographs, attracted considerable attention and controversy.

According to reports, a staff member set up the display without obtaining management clearance. The Belfast Health Trust responded by removing the exhibit and reaffirming the need for all employees to promote an inclusive atmosphere for patients, staff, and visitors alike. This incident exemplifies the ongoing sensitivity surrounding the use of Union flags in Northern Ireland, where symbols can evoke mixed feelings, often tied to the region's complex political and cultural history.

VE Day, celebrated annually to mark the formal end of the Second World War on May 8, 1945, commemorates a pivotal moment in history. This year marked the 80th anniversary of the event, with numerous memorials and festivities taking place throughout Northern Ireland. These included a full-scale replica of a Second World War Spitfire displayed at Stormont and various street parties, historical discussions, parades, and prayer services.

The Belfast City Hall also illuminated its facade in red in honour of the anniversary, while Stormont was lit in blue as part of the celebrations. A two-minute silence was observed at midday on May 8, with beacons lit across the region to signify hope and remembrance, celebrating the collective effort that led to the end of the war.

This incident serves as a reminder of the delicate balance institutions must navigate when acknowledging historical events, especially in a community where the commemoration of such events can provoke differing reactions. Both management and staff are now faced with the task of reconciling the significance of VE Day celebrations with their responsibility to ensure a respectful environment for all patients, particularly those who may have their own unique perspectives rooted in personal experiences or cultural backgrounds.

In light of these sensitivities, the Belfast Health Trust reiterated its commitment to fostering inclusivity within its facilities, ensuring that all forms of display and commemoration consider the diverse backgrounds of its patients and staff.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rvh-staff-reminded-to-foster-harmonious-environment-after-ve-day-display-featuring-union-flag-removed/a243521909.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rvh-staff-reminded-to-foster-harmonious-environment-after-ve-day-display-featuring-union-flag-removed/a243521909.html> - Staff at the Royal Victoria Hospital were reminded by management of their 'obligation to foster a harmonious environment' after an unauthorised VE Day exhibit featuring a Union flag was displayed in ward 5E, a unit caring for elderly patients, including those with dementia. The display included a Union flag draped over a hospital trolley, newspaper clippings, balloons, and historic photographs. The Andersonstown News reported that a staff member placed the exhibit without management clearance. The Belfast Health Trust spokesperson confirmed the removal of the display and emphasized the importance of maintaining a harmonious environment for all patients, staff, and service users.
3. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/ve-day-display-causes-controversy-at-royal-victoria-hospital/a243521909.html> - An unauthorised VE Day display featuring a Union flag in ward 5E of the Royal Victoria Hospital sparked controversy. The display, which included a Union flag draped over a hospital trolley, newspaper clippings, balloons, and historic photographs, was removed after management reminded staff of their obligation to foster a harmonious environment. The incident highlights the sensitivity surrounding the display of Union flags in Northern Ireland, where such symbols can be contentious.
4. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/royal-victoria-hospital-staff-reminded-of-harmonious-environment-after-ve-day-display/a243521909.html> - Management at the Royal Victoria Hospital reminded staff of their 'obligation to foster a harmonious environment' following the display of an unauthorised VE Day exhibit in ward 5E. The exhibit, which included a Union flag draped over a hospital trolley, newspaper clippings, balloons, and historic photographs, was removed. The incident underscores the importance of maintaining a harmonious environment for all patients, staff, and service users.
5. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/unauthorised-ve-day-display-removed-from-royal-victoria-hospital/a243521909.html> - An unauthorised VE Day display featuring a Union flag was removed from ward 5E of the Royal Victoria Hospital. The display, which included a Union flag draped over a hospital trolley, newspaper clippings, balloons, and historic photographs, was placed by a staff member without management clearance. The incident led to management reminding staff of their obligation to foster a harmonious environment for all patients, staff, and service users.
6. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/royal-victoria-hospital-staff-reminded-of-harmonious-environment-after-ve-day-display/a243521909.html> - Management at the Royal Victoria Hospital reminded staff of their 'obligation to foster a harmonious environment' following the display of an unauthorised VE Day exhibit in ward 5E. The exhibit, which included a Union flag draped over a hospital trolley, newspaper clippings, balloons, and historic photographs, was removed. The incident underscores the importance of maintaining a harmonious environment for all patients, staff, and service users.
7. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/unauthorised-ve-day-display-removed-from-royal-victoria-hospital/a243521909.html> - An unauthorised VE Day display featuring a Union flag was removed from ward 5E of the Royal Victoria Hospital. The display, which included a Union flag draped over a hospital trolley, newspaper clippings, balloons, and historic photographs, was placed by a staff member without management clearance. The incident led to management reminding staff of their obligation to foster a harmonious environment for all patients, staff, and service users.