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Steve George  
Clerk to the Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

11 September 2009

Dear Mr George,

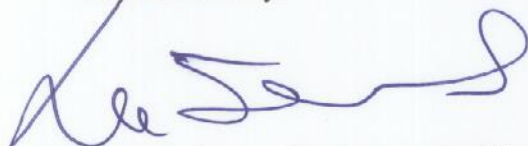
**Re: Committee inquiry: stroke services in Wales**

Apologies for the lateness of our response, unfortunately I have been experiencing problems with my email.

I conducted a consultation on stroke services in Wales and the results are enclosed. It was felt important, within the organisation, that the views of the patient were also taken into consideration.

Although this response is late, I hope the report will still be of help.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Lee Jones, Project and Office Manager,  
Age Concern Ceredigion  
Aberaeron office.

## Stroke Consultation, July and August 2009

**Inquiry into Stroke Services: Age Concern Ceredigion.**

**Providing evidence into inquiry sere:**

**Aberystwyth Stroke Club**

**Cardigan Stroke Club**

**Linda Grace – Mayor of Cardigan**

**The following points were made:**

### Ceredigion South

- **General feeling was that symptoms such as head ache and numbness had not been recognised by GPs. These later proved to be the signs of a stroke. Earlier intervention would have meant better outcomes.**
- **Scans did not happen in good time. Patients in the South of the county were not in a dedicated stroke unit.**
- **Physiotherapy in the south of Ceredigion was not offered soon enough and its quality was poor.**
- **Respite care has been hard to access for carers.**
- **Any strategy for stroke in Wales must have a rural perspective.**
- **There is a lack of physiotherapy cover in a community hospital**
- **Inadequate training of nurses in fundamental stroke care in community hospitals**
- **Services do not take into account the needs of welsh speaking patients**

### North Ceredigion

- **Delays in arranging a care package resulted in much longer stays in hospital**
- **Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth have a dedicated stroke unit giving a good service**
- **Speech therapy is very patchy**

- **Patients had to travel out of county for MRI scans**
- **Support and services very good whilst in hospital but essential support and therapies at home not good**