

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/VG/0646/15

Peter Black AM
Assembly Member for South Wales West
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

27th February 2015

Dear *Peter*

You raised the matter of paediatric services in the Swansea and Bridgend areas during Plenary on 28 January. I said I would write to you with the latest position on discussions between the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMUHB) and the Wales Deanery.

As across Wales and much of the UK, paediatric staffing in ABMUHB will remain challenging for the foreseeable future. There are significant challenges in recruiting doctors into paediatric training posts. The ABMUHB is exploring the option of deploying a combination of Deanery Trainee doctors and non-Deanery Specialty Doctors to ensure that there is safe and sustainable emergency cover on both its current service sites.

Princess of Wales (POW) Hospital will not be receiving any 'middle grade' trainees as part of the Deanery's current allocation. I am assured that this is simply a matter of the number of trainee doctors available across Wales and not a reflection of the quality of training provided at POW.

The ABMUHB has therefore decided to staff this unit with some of its dedicated Specialty and Associate Specialist (SAS) doctors and supplement these with clinical fellows and consultants working flexibly. They have also made available additional funding to recruit more consultants and have already appointed one new consultant to the unit.

The ABMUHB are confident they will be able to maintain safe, high quality paediatric services at Swansea and Bridgend from March. The situation remains fluid and will be kept under close review. Safety and quality of care will remain their primary concern.

Yours sincerely

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
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Deputy Minister for Health

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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