

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1324
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/00506/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

30 March 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 15 February on behalf of Stefan Coghlan regarding a petition to disband Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board into smaller units.

I am not of the view that we should consider breaking the health board into smaller units. The health board is the largest in Wales and I believe that it benefits significantly from its scale. Its size means that it can deliver consistent services to the population of North Wales, by managing a single patient waiting list. It can sustain the critical mass required for most specialist services even as advances in professional standards lead to greater sub-specialisation, and it should therefore be able to deliver more resilient specialist services through working across locality boundaries as a single body.

Any significant organisational change or attempt to disband the health board into smaller organisations would only lead to further disruption in a health and social care system still recovering from the impact of the pandemic and may detract from my objectives of delivering improvements in care. It would also create additional management costs at a time when finances are tight.

What is important is to ensure there is appropriate leadership and infrastructure within the health board to meet the demands placed upon it. Therefore, it is essential that we support the health board to drive forward transformation and not undertake a disruptive re-structure that diverts resources from patient care.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I hope this is helpful to your petitioners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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