

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a
Gofal Cymdeithasol**

—
**Health and Social Care
Committee**

**Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus a
Gweinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus**

—
**Public Accounts and Public
Administration Committee**

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Eluned Morgan MS
Minister for Health and Social Services

7 July 2023

Dear Eluned

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)

Thank you for your [letter of 10 May 2023](#), in which you provided information in respect of the BCUHB Intervention and Support Team, work and progress against objectives identified in the special measures regime, and the timescales for work to look at improving accountability and the revision and refresh of the intervention and escalation framework. We welcome your commitment to providing six-monthly updates on the latter two points and look forward to receiving the first updates in November 2023.

Our Committees discussed your response at our concurrent meeting on 25 May 2023 as we considered whether, and if so how, we might undertake work in relation to the current situation in BCUHB.

We have agreed the following aims for our work:


- To work jointly where possible and appropriate.
- For scrutiny to be proportionate, and focused and timed appropriately to add value rather than duplicate or conflict with other ongoing processes.
- To strike a balance between legitimate scrutiny and recognising where things are working well.



To give effect to these aims, we have agreed to maintain an active watching brief with regards to the situation in BCUHB. As a first step, we have agreed to seek further information from you in regard to the issues outlined in the annex to this letter. We will also be writing to the interim Chair of BCUHB to seek some further information. Once we have had the opportunity to consider this information, we will consider whether, and, if so, when, we may wish to hold oral evidence sessions and/or visit North Wales to explore these issues further.

We would welcome a response **by 18 August 2023**.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee



Mark Isherwood MS
Chair, Public Accounts and Public
Administration Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Annex: Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)

Following consideration on 25 May 2023 by the Health and Social Care and Public Accounts and Public Administration Committees of the situation at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the information provided by the Minister for Health and Social Services in her letter of 10 May 2023, we would welcome information on the matters listed below. We would be grateful to receive your response **by 18 August 2023**.

Welsh Government oversight

1. What will be the structure and process of the Welsh Government/Ministerial oversight of BCUHB's progress against the Special Measures Organisational Response Plan.

Intervention and Support team role

2. What role the Intervention and Support Team will play in reporting on progress achieved.

Interim Board member appointments

The independent Board members have a crucial role in supporting the delivery of the Response Plan. We note from BCUHB Board papers from 25 May 2023 (paper 7) that the six new interim independent members who were appointed directly by the Minister for Health and Social Services in February 2023 were appointed until 29 February 2024. We note that recent media reports have raised questions about the appointment and subsequent resignation of one interim independent member, including queries about when that individual ceased to be employed by BCUHB.

3. Please provide information about the process by which the interim independent members were appointed. This should include information about:
 - How Welsh Government identified potential appointees, and what criteria were used to identify appointees' suitability for the roles.
 - What processes are in place to identify any relevant interests or conflicts of interest that could affect interim independent members' appointment, their fulfilment of the role, or the perception of their fulfilment of the role. This should include information about any arrangements that are in place for the resolution of any such conflicts or interests that are incompatible with appointment, and/or the transparent registration of conflicts or interests that do not prevent the appointment but which are nevertheless relevant to Board members' fulfilment, or the perception of their fulfilment, of their role.
 - What steps were taken to ensure compliance with the eligibility requirements in Schedule 2 to the Local Health Boards (Constitution, Membership and Procedures) (Wales) Regulations 2009.



- Which Welsh Government departments were involved in the appointment process.
 - Any other information you consider relevant or think that we would find helpful in relation to these appointments.
4. What arrangements are in place for monitoring the performance of interim Board members during the period of their appointment.
 5. Please outline what plans are in place for securing permanent appointments to the Board, including the roles of Chair, Deputy Chair and independent board members. This should include information about the timescales, proposed recruitment approach, and any particular role specific or personal criteria candidates will be expected to demonstrate.

Executive appointments

6. The Committees would also welcome information on the planned process and timescales for the recruitment of a substantive appointment to the Chief Executive role in BCUHB.