



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1456
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/05901/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru

petitions@senedd.wales

03 July 2024

Dear Jack Sargeant MS,

Thank you for your letter of 13 June about Petition P-06-1456 calling for a public enquiry into the consolidation of the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Services (EMRTS) bases in Mid and North West Wales.

I acknowledge the strength of feeling among communities in Mid and North Wales about this issue.

The decision to consolidate services at a new base was made by the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee with the intention to enable more people to receive the specialised critical care response provided by EMRTS when they need it and to enable people to be transferred as quickly as possible to the right clinicians to optimise their survival chances and outcomes. This aligns to our policy expectation for provision of the right care, in the right place, first time. We have been assured that this will enable more people across Wales, including in Powys and North Wales, to receive the specialised critical care response provided by EMRTS, if they need it.

I have been assured that this decision will also enable EMRTS to provide greater night coverage to people in North and Mid Wales who require their services, thus improving chances of better outcomes for people with life threatening conditions. This builds on current arrangements where night coverage is provided only from a base in Cardiff.

The experts involved in planning and delivering these services – the clinical director of EMRTS and the Wales Air Ambulance Charity – agree that consolidation of services is the right decision for the people of Wales.

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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.

Assurance was provided in detail at the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee meeting on 23 April 2024 about the quality of data used, the length and rigour of the engagement process and the value added by consolidating services.

The decision was – and should remain – the responsibility of the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee. The committee was established for the purposes of jointly carrying out the function of planning, securing and commissioning of a range of specialist services, including EMRTS. It is not a decision for the Welsh Government to make and nor should an operational decision of this nature be one for Ministers to make.

Yours sincerely,

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

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol