

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-367 / 394 / 430 / 431 / 455
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/03564/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
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Committee Clerk

14 December 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 6 December about a number of petitions the Committee is currently considering in relation to changes to Health Services in Mid & West Wales. Please find below the latest position on the three matters which you requested.

Minor Injuries Services in Tenby

The Minor Injuries Unit at Tenby Hospital closed on 1 December. I have been assured by Hywel Dda Health Board that an appropriate level of care is being put in place for the people of Tenby. They intend to redeploy the enhanced nurse practitioners to the Emergency Department at Withybush Hospital. I expect the Health Board and local Community Health Council to monitor the situation in Tenby closely and to react appropriately if the new service providers struggle to meet the relatively low levels of patient activity accessing the former MIU.

The Health Board's decision to close the MIU followed an evaluation of the pilot minor injuries service during the summer, which was run by the Red Cross. I understand that the Health Board intends to commission a similar service for the tourist season in future years.

Neonatal Services in relation to Glangwili and Withybush Hospitals

As you are aware, the Health Board's proposals for changes to neonatal services at Withybush and Glangwili Hospitals were referred to me for determination by the local Community Health Council (CHC). An independent Scrutiny Panel was convened to provide me with advice and recommendations on which to base my decision, and reported back to me in September.

On 24 September, I confirmed my support for the Panel's recommendation to develop a Level 2 neonatal unit at Glangwili Hospital, but instructed the Health Board to undertake a further of piece of work to clarify models for obstetric and maternity services in the area.

The Health Board has now provided this additional work and the Scrutiny Panel is being reconvened to consider the report and provide me further advice and recommendations. I intend to make my final determination on this matter on 21st January 2014.

Model of Emergency Care at Prince Philip Hospital

The CHC also referred the Health Board's proposals for emergency care at Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli to me for determination. Following the advice of the Scrutiny Panel, I announced my decision on the model of care at the Hospital in the Senedd on 24 September.

The Local Emergency Department will be clinically led by doctors and delivered in conjunction with emergency nurse practitioners. Patients attending the unit should have direct access to a medical opinion when required and I am clear that responsibility for clinical leadership in such circumstances should rest with the General Practitioners or Consultants as appropriate.

I trust this provides the Petition Committee with the necessary information. As requested, I will forward the copies of the recent information provided by the petitioners, which were enclosed with your letter, to the Scrutiny Panel. I have also noted the content of your letter to the Chief Executive of Hywel Dda Health Board, about its failure to respond to correspondence on the petitions.

Best wishes

Mark

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