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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg  
University Health Board

Our Ref: P-04-494

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ABMU Health Board  
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Ms Kayleigh Driscoll  
Deputy Committee Clerk  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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Dear Ms Driscoll

As outlined in the attached letters from Williams Powell, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has been allocated funding by the Health Technologies Fund for a robotic surgery system at the University Hospital of Wales. The business case submitted by Cardiff and Vale for the purchase of a robot to undertake radical prostatectomy procedures outlined that demand in ABMU based on 2012/2013 activity is 65 cases per annum. NICE clinical guidance recommends that commissioners ensure that the robotic system for surgical treatment of localised prostate cancer are cost effective by basing them in centres that are expected to perform at least 150 robot-assisted laparoscopic radical prostatectomies per year. Based on the 2012/2013 activity level, there are currently insufficient levels of activity to support the commissioning of a robot solely within ABMU. Therefore, ABMU has been working in collaboration with Cardiff and Vale on the delivery of this service for all patients in South Wales.

The Cardiff and Vale business case emphasised that 'whilst the robot would be based in Cardiff, it would be used by a small team of robotically trained Urology Surgeons (to include Mr Neil Fenn from ABMUHB and Mr Jim Wilson from Aneurin Bevan HB) with equity of access based on patient flows, the majority of which will be from outside Cardiff and Vale. To ensure compliance with cancer standards, the clinical model will be flexible to allow surgeons to operate on patients from locations across South Wales, not just those for their local populations.' Therefore, those patients under the care of ABMU will have equity in

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◦ Chairman/Cadeirydd: **Professor Andrew Davies**

◦ Chief Executive/ Prif Weithredydd: **Mr Paul Roberts**

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their care, as access to a robot has already been established via the Cardiff & Vale business case.

To support patients from outside Cardiff and Vale having equitable access to the robot, a clinical pathway for patients referred for surgery outside Cardiff and Vale has been developed by consultants from ABMU, Aneurin Bevan and Cardiff & Vale. The pathway for the service for patients in Wales is based on a model with a central robotic system in Cardiff and provision for a 'flow of patients' with their surgeons from neighbouring cancer centres currently providing an open or Laparoscopic RP service. This group of patients makes up the majority of cases and therefore the agreed pathway is designed to support this model and ensure patient flow is safe and efficient.

Yours sincerely

pp *Alexandra Howells*

**PAUL ROBERTS**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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