

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-04-568
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/05469/14

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair
Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Petition@Wales.gov.uk

3 November 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition: P-04-568 Public Inquiry into ABMU Health Board.

I have indicated that I do not believe that a public inquiry is likely to advance understanding of the cause of the failings identified at Princess of Wales and Neath Port Talbot Hospitals and the identification of remedial measures.

Welsh Ministers have accepted all 18 recommendations in the Trusted to Care Report and have, in addition, instigated additional measures including the comprehensive programme of Ministerial spot checks across all district general hospitals in Wales, the results of which have now been published and are being considered. The Evans Report on Complaints handling (together with the results of the engagement exercise that was conducted over the Summer) is also being considered.

I am aware of the ongoing criminal proceedings and investigations relating to this matter, and receive progress updates as appropriate, and am of the view that these investigations and reviews must be allowed to run their course.

The Welsh Ministers will continue to keep the requirements of articles 2 and 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights under consideration.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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I note that the petition requests that the Petition Committee compels me to establish an inquiry. That is not in any event within the power of the committee. I can assure the committee that I take patient safety extremely seriously and you will be aware that a national working group to look at the administration, recording, review and storage of medicines has been set up.

The Trusted to Care steering group, which is jointly chaired by the chief medical officer and chief nursing officer, will consider many of the themes to emerge from the spot checks as part of its work on the *Trusted to Care* report recommendations.

The spot checks have proved to be a valuable source of learning from which the NHS can make further improvements to the quality of patient care.

Best wishes,

Mark

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