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By email: Tanwen.Summers@cynulliad.cymru

10 April 2015

Dear Tanwen,

Following my Committee appearance on 19 March 2015, I agreed to provide further information on the number of independent healthcare providers in Wales and on the numbers of private units within NHS organisations.

Independent Healthcare Providers

A table detailing independent healthcare providers registered with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales as at 31 March 2015 is attached at Annex 1.

Private Patient Units

There is currently only one private patient unit in operation in Wales. The Bridgend Clinic (www.bridgendclinic.co.uk) is located within the Princess of Wales Hospital grounds and is operated by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

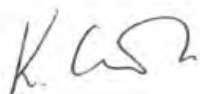
The Bridgend Clinic comprises nine beds and an out-patient suite containing five consultation rooms. It offers consultation and procedures for a range of specialist areas.

The Bridgend Clinic (PPU) does not need to register with HIW since it is owned and operated by the Health Board. We understand that it is also used as an overflow for NHS patients when needed.

For the purposes of complaint processes and the role of HIW, the Bridgend Clinic is treated as an NHS site and it is HIW understanding that if a complainant were not happy with the Health Board's response to their complaint they would have access to Public Service Ombudsman for Wales. If HIW were to receive a complaint relating to care in the Bridgend Clinic we would direct the complainant to the Health Board complaint processes in the first instance and we have previously done so.

Hywel Dda University Health Board confirmed during our research that 6 beds are allocated to private patients in Glangwili General Hospital, Carmarthen. But these do not form a unit and may also be used by NHS patients as required. All other Health Boards and Trusts confirmed that currently, they do not operate PPU's.

Yours sincerely



DR KATE CHAMBERLAIN
Chief Executive

ANNEX 1

Independent Healthcare Providers in Wales (excluding private dentists)

Setting Type	Number
Mental health/ learning disability hospitals	21
Hospitals (non-mental health)	26
Clinics	12
Medical Agencies	1
Laser/ IPL Services	72