

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-04-466/479/564
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01243/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

7 May 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding petitions P-04-466, P-04-479 and P-04-564 relating to health services in North Wales.

In your letter you asked that the committee be kept informed regarding the new health facilities for Blaenau Ffestiniog and of progress health boards are making in responding to the Mid Wales Healthcare Study report. The latest position on each of these matters is given below.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has submitted a business case for capital funding to develop an integrated health and social care centre at Blaenau Ffestiniog. The business case has been scrutinised by my officials and as a result of issues raised, the business case will need to be amended. I understand the health board is planning to submit the revised document to its board for approval in June. In terms of the capital funding, I have made provision within the forward NHS capital programme, subject to the successful completion of the business case.

I have asked my officials to continue to support the health board in delivering this new and much needed facility for the people of Blaenau Ffestiniog as soon as possible.

In February I announced the appointment of Dr Ruth Hall and Mr Jack Evershed as the independent co-chairs of the Mid Wales Health Collaborative which has been established through the three health boards Hywel Dda, Powys and Betsi Cadwaladr and the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust. This formally set in motion the first key recommendations made in Professor Marcus Longley's report.

A high-level conference was held in Mid Wales, bringing together leading experts in planning and delivering healthcare services for rural populations in order to discuss the report's recommendations and how to move forward. The Mid Wales Rural Healthcare Conference, hosted by Dr Hall and Mr Evershed, was held on 12 March. This provided an excellent opportunity to bring together people with a stake in the future of their health services to highlight the most successful examples of solutions to rural healthcare problems and to discuss what lessons could be applied to mid Wales.

The collaborative will hold its first meeting in May, which will outline its ambitious work programme to take forward further recommendations from the Mid Wales Healthcare Study. I hope the committee finds my response informative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

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