

21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Ms Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair –Petitions Committee  
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## **P-06-1350 Re-open Dyfi Ward at Tywyn Hospital**

Dear Ms Thomas,

Once again the petitioners have asked me to forward further observations to your Committee from the Community Hospitals Association. This follows the petitioners' receipt of a copy of the letter of 08<sup>th</sup> April 2025, from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to you as the Petitions Committee Chair.

### **THE NEED FOR THE TYWYN FACILITY**

During the past couple of weeks, I have visited 3 North Wales hospitals with 5 different patients, one acute hospital and two community hospitals. The situation has been consistent. I met kind hard working staff struggling with overcrowded facilities. This was especially so in Ysbyty Gwynedd, where the A&E wait had extended to 7 hours and in the Gogarth Ward (GP urgent referral ward) where finding somewhere to put a patient for an assessment took some time, because of the hospital's bed occupancy level.

Yet we have in Tywyn, modern equipped accommodation that has been underutilised for two years.

The Cabinet Secretary in his letter accepts that the Tywyn facility should be contributing to meeting our healthcare needs in North Wales and that for two years Betsi Cadwaladr UHB has failed to match their own promise to staff and reopen the Tywyn facility. The situation can be rectified.

### **IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY**

The impact of the Dyfi Ward closure has been felt outside the immediate area. Local South Meirionnydd residents have suffered the most. This is clear from the multiple social media posts that residents have made on the topic and from the recent visit to Tywyn of S4C.

I am encouraged that some of the Cabinet Secretary's staff "monitor the situation". It would be encouraging if they made contact with the Petitioners when they visit the Tywyn area. I am not aware of HIW, PHW or any other national Wales NHS body giving visible assistance to easing the problem.

### **CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND RECOMMENDATION**

I understand that there have been senior staff changes in the Betsi Cadwaladr UHB West area, and the Cabinet Secretary confirms that the revised management are charged with developing and consulting upon a "long-term plan for the future of service provision". However, the Cabinet Secretary does not offer any date for the production or implementation of the proposed "long term plan".



Promises and reality have not been comfortable “bedfellows” in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB care provision, as the very extensive periods that Betsi Cadwaladr UHB has been in ‘special measures’ testifies. The chances that a “long-term plan for the future of service provision” will be viewed as meeting the healthcare needs of South Meirionnydd and will then be delivered, is low, based on the recent history of the service delivery in the area.

I know that there has been discussion on whether or not this petition should be closed. I urge you to keep the petition open and seek updates from Betsi Cadwaladr UHB and the petitioners on the progress of the action that the Cabinet Secretary has proposed.

As someone who in my working days made positive contributions to the NHS in Wales, I am embarrassed by the international reputation that we now have. I have no doubt that the level of healthcare service in the Tywyn area can be improved and I ask the Petitions Committee to maintain their contribution to delivering that improvement.

Yours sincerely

Tom Brooks

**Committee Member**  
**Community Hospitals Association**