

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: MA-P/VG/1640/16

David Rees AM
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

31 March 2016

Dear David

Health and Social Care Committee follow-up inquiry into the performance of ambulance services

Thank you for your further letter of 9 March seeking further clarification on a number of areas detailed in my earlier response.

I have noted the additional points raised and believe I have addressed the issues set out in Conclusions 1 and 2 in regard to the quarterly publication of Ambulance Quality Indicators (AQIs), including comprehensive patient handover information. During the year long clinical response model pilot, the AQIs will be published quarterly to allow a clearer understanding of trends and the impact of seasonal variation, sitting alongside the monthly publication of 'Red' response times. I can only re-iterate that the way we are sharing key information on ambulance services in Wales makes us the most transparent country in the UK and among the most transparent worldwide.

I welcome the Committee's full acceptance that WAST is responsible for training and staff roster arrangements as part of their operational obligations. The Welsh Government will continue to appraise progress that this is being achieved through well established assurance mechanisms including appraisal of the organisation's Medium Term Plan

To provide further clarity on the Trust's workforce planning arrangements, I understand the intention for 2016/17 – 2018/19 is to build on the foundation of the work carried out in 2015/16 and continue to focus efforts on increasing the number of staff and production hours available through timely recruitment and a further reduction in sickness absence. This will reduce the need for, and cost of, overtime and ensure the organisation continues to make the best use of resources.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Trust will also progress the work needed to assess current and future capacity to meet demand across the 5 steps of its new clinical model, and learn from the independent evaluation of the clinical response model pilot. This work will inform the development of longer term workforce planning requirements and enable the identification of the right level of resource required with the right clinical capability and skills to respond to the existing and predicated demand.

Finally, in regard to Conclusion 6 and the publication of the assessment report on the outcome of the Cwm Taf Explorer project, this is an internal operational report and it is not a decision for Welsh Government to make. However, I can assure you that we regularly encourage all health and social care organisations to learn and share good practice with each other for the benefit of patients.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Vaughan Gething AM
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Deputy Minister for Health