

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/01956/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales)

21 June 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 6 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-05-826 about the closure of Withybush A&E.

Hywel Dda University Health Board began formal public consultation on its proposals to transform community and hospital services in mid and west Wales on 19 April. The consultation '*Our big NHS Change*' runs until 12 July and involves a number of events for communities.

The health board is proposing change so that it can make the most of every opportunity to improve population health and health services locally; as well as face its challenges and ensure services are the safest and highest value they can be for communities in the region.

I welcome this important consultation to improve services for the population of Hywel Dda. The proposals have been clinically-led and developed in conjunction with doctors, nurses, wider staff groups, people who help provide care, patient representatives and partners.

At this stage, the proposals are a matter for Hywel Dda UHB to determine using these well-established procedures. After the public consultation has been concluded, the health board will consider the outcome and make recommendations to its Board, who will then take final decisions on the future of services in the region.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

As you will appreciate, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the health board's proposals at this time, as it may compromise any future role I may have to play in the process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services