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Bwrdd Iechyd  
Addysgu Powys  
Powys Teaching  
Health Board

CS/RM

18 October 2018

Mr Dai Lloyd, AM  
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA  
[SeneddHealth@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddHealth@assembly.wales)

Dear Mr Lloyd,

### **Autism (Wales) Bill**

I write to offer my sincere apologies for being unable to attend on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to provide evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee (the Committee) in respect of the scrutiny inquiry on the Autism (Wales) Bill. Unfortunately, I was called to attend a court hearing as a witness and was therefore required to prioritise this.

I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that the evidence that I would have provided, had I been able to attend, would have been in-line with the Welsh NHS Confederation's response, submitted to the Committee in September 2018.

Within that response, the Welsh NHS Confederation confirms that Health Boards and Trusts across Wales have made significant progress in recent years to deliver high quality services to people with autism. In many areas, Health Boards have reconfigured their services to improve quality and access. This progress and improvement has been made possible thanks to closer collaboration between NHS Wales organisations and Local Government. Areas of best practice have recognised that achieving the best possible outcome for the patient must be the key priority of NHS services above all else.

In addition, integrated working has also allowed individuals and teams across health and social care to come together and share ideas to tackle

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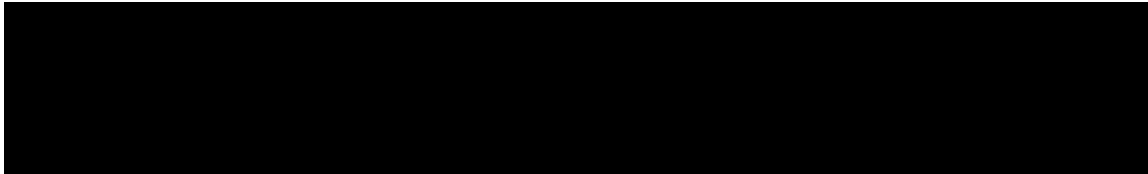


the increasing workforce and financial challenges. Within this context, I believe that NHS Wales can develop and improve its services for people with autism further by looking more closely at ways to scale-up examples of best practice and drive transformation, as set out in the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care and included within the Welsh Governments recently published "A Healthier Wales" Plan, rather than turning to the introduction of legislation.

Yours sincerely

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**Chief Executive**

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