

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MB/MD/1892/15

Kirsty Williams AM
AM for Brecon and Radnorshire
4 Watrgate
Brecon
LD3 9AN

29 May 2015

Dear Kirsty,

I noted you raised a concern with Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance and Government Business, at Business Questions on 28 April about the payment of the wages of former staff of Alpha Home Care Support Services Ltd and Bryce Care Training Services Ltd which have both gone into liquidation. I thought it may be helpful if I wrote to set out the position.

CSSIW has been advised that Powys County Council will be paying former employees any outstanding wages due from the companies where they have transferred into the council's in-house service under TUPE. CSSIW understands this relates to most of the staff affected. Staff that transferred are now employed by the council and will be paid on the last working day of each month along with all other council employees.

Former employees of the companies who did not transfer to the council under TUPE are entitled to claim for payment of outstanding wages from the liquidator and, in the event there are insufficient funds, from the UK Government's National Insurance Fund. CSSIW has confirmed with the liquidator that claim forms have been issued to these staff to facilitate this process. Whilst there are limitations on the amount that can be claimed from the fund, these arrangements should minimise the risk that former staff will lose out financially as a result of the changes.

This has been a time of significant disruption for staff and CSSIW continue to monitor the transition of services by maintaining a dialogue with the council. The inspectorate has also undertaken inspections of all domiciliary care agencies currently providing care in Powys whilst at the same time reviewing the council's commissioning and management arrangements for domiciliary care in Powys. Reports on this work will be published in the near future and I anticipate these will highlight some important lessons for commissioners and providers of domiciliary care as well as informing the development of more sustainable arrangements in Powys.

I hope this provides you with some reassurance on the issues you raised in Business Questions.

Best wishes

Mark Drakeford.

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