



William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Tuesday 4th June 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your recent letter requesting the Welsh NHS Confederation's views regarding petition P-04-457 'the Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign' and data about the take-up of chaplaincy services in the NHS.

Hospital chaplains are of enormous value to Health Boards and have an important place as part of NHS staff. By offering spiritual care services to patients, carers and staff, they provide vital support to people in times of need.

It is important to note that hospital chaplains do not solely provide 'religious care' but cover much wider spiritual and emotional support which isn't necessarily of a religious nature. As such, hospital chaplains have a significant number of pastoral and spiritual encounters and contacts which do not lead to a specific religious intervention. These include bereavement support, pregnancy loss funerals, memorial services in addition to awareness training to a number of staff on the diverse spiritual and religious needs of Wales' multi faith patient community.

Information regarding the take up on chaplaincy services in the NHS is not recorded centrally by the Welsh NHS Confederation and we understand there is no requirement for keeping such information across the Health Boards.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Birtwhistle
Director