

Governance Arrangements at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Written evidence from Chair of the North West Wales Consultant Group, (11 August 2013)

For close on a year I have been raising concerns about patient safety.

I have done this as the Chair of the North West Wales Consultant Group. I have also had the advantage of a University appointment which has made my position a little more secure from reprisals. The Public Affairs Committee should understand that I have the full support of my colleagues.

Our concerns led to me taking out Grievance and Raising Concerns processes close to a year ago. This process was kicked into touch by BCUHB, who essentially have failed to engage with the issues.

The issues concern patient safety. There are a growing number of Serious Untoward Incidents linked we believe to mismanagement. Our concerns are that there will be even more such incidents in the near future as medical and nursing staff have left the service and the gaps in cover are growing ever more alarming with management seemingly incapable of resolving the issues.

There are an increasing number of other problems with staff whose only sin has been to raise issues of patient safety being sent on "gardening" leave. This defamatory action has been traumatic for the nurses in question but also for the unit in general.

We have been left uncertain as to whether the problems we are facing are the result of incompetence or certain maliciousness.

We have lost confidence in the ability or willingness of BCUHB management to resolve the issues

We would welcome independent scrutiny of the situation.