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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Mr William Powell AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Ein cyf / Our ref: GL/MD/10242/637

Eich cyf / Your ref: P-04-494

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Dyddiad / Date: 20 August 2013

Dear Mr Powell

ROBOTIC ASSISTED LAPAROSCOPIC PROSTATECTOMY

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2013 regarding patient access to robotic surgery for prostate cancer in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB).

At this time, due to issues of capacity with insufficient Urologists with skills in laparoscopic surgery in BCUHB, we refer some patients for laparoscopic prostatectomy and nephrectomy to the Christie Hospital NHS Trust in Manchester under a contract we hold with them. We recognise that this means some patients have the disadvantage of travelling some distance for prostate surgery. However, as a result of these referrals some patients who receive laparoscopic surgery do so robotically, as this treatment modality is used at Christies.

In North Wales we are reviewing our urology practice overall, and as part of that we need to consider both the place of delivery and the future and type of laparoscopic procedures. For prostate interventions the treatment options are likely to be strongly directed by the update of the NICE Guideline on Prostate Cancer anticipated in 2014.

Yours sincerely

GEOFF LANG
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE