

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-520
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/03626/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

19 December 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 12 December concerning the petition submitted by Kate O'Dell, following the announcement of the reduction in orthopaedic surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board.

This was not a decision of the Welsh Government, but was an operational decision made by Hywel Dda Health Board, in the context of all the circumstances, including winter pressures.

Furthermore, I believe the decision was not made in the terms described in the petition. I understand that following discussions with staff, the Health Board intends to maintain elective orthopaedic surgery across the region, but with a reduced capacity, so as to enable them to better cope with unscheduled care demand. I am told the position will be reviewed on a weekly basis. The Health Board has also stated that all cancer, urgent trauma and orthopaedic day surgery will continue during this period.

If a reduced volume of orthopaedic surgery takes place in Hywel Dda this winter, clinicians will remain responsible for the care of individual patients and the treatment and support offered to them.

I note that you have raised your concerns with the Chair of the Health Board. I would expect him to provide a satisfactory response addressing the concerns of the petitioners with respect to the Health Board's decision.

Yours sincerely

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