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Adam Cairns
Chief Executive

23 August 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell

Urology Robot

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2013.

The current position is that Cardiff and Vale UHB do not fund patients for this robotic surgery, but provide open prostatectomy, with good clinical outcomes; one of the NICE recommended options.

We have however been reviewing our use of technology and future needs in light of the Welsh Government call for submissions to the Health Technology Fund.

In considering our priorities, we reviewed the developing evidence for robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy as one of the possible technological developments that we would like to introduce. Although current NICE guidance and a draft updated version due to be published in 2014, does not recommend that all radical prostatectomies should be undertaken by a robot, we have taken the view that we would wish to introduce one to our service, to offer this choice in Wales.

In developing our submission for the Health Technology Fund, we have collaborated with our neighbouring LHBs, as this facility should serve a wider population. We were pleased to be informed earlier this month that our submission has been successful.

We will therefore be procuring the robot soon, undertaking the necessary building works to install it and training staff in its use. Therefore during 2014 we will bring the equipment into service and be able to offer this treatment procedure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Myhill". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

Tracy Myhill
Deputy Chief Executive, on behalf of

Adam Cairns
Chief Executive