

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-04-564
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/05647/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

12 November 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the petition P-04-564 – The restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover and X Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital.

In relation to Mr Jones' comment that the decision regarding the Health Board's proposals for the new model of community healthcare services in Blaenau Ffestiniog should be delayed pending consideration of the findings of the Mid Wales Healthcare Study, it should be noted that the terms of reference made it clear that it was not the remit of the Study to prepare an action plan or to make decisions about the future as these are statutory responsibilities of the three health boards and the other NHS organisations which cover this part of Wales.

The Mid Wales Healthcare Study was published on 23 October and I have made my expectation clear that Hywel Dda, Betsi Cadwaladr and Powys health boards and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust should respond to the study's findings in a thorough and meaningful way through their planning arrangements, including the development of their 2015-16 medium term plans. I have written to each of the boards, setting out my expectations and requesting board-level discussions of the findings and a response before Christmas. I expect the response to build on the involvement of staff and patients' views.

I will consider the full detail of the Welsh Government's response to the report, but have asked officials to start work immediately in order to advise me about the options for securing improved joint planning between the four organisations, the three health boards and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, in the interests of people receiving healthcare in Mid Wales.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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Finally, to clarify for Mr Jones, the role of the Welsh Government in the decision to close Blaenau Ffestiniog community hospital, this decision was made by the Health Board following widespread public consultation. The proposal was not referred to Welsh Ministers for determination by the local Community Health Council. However, mindful that the community hospital was closing, I was keen to ensure that the business case for the replacement primary care resource centre was treated as a priority project by my officials.

Best wishes,

Mark

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