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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF HOSPITAL SERVICES.

SOSPPAN.LLANELLI.

Mr William Powell AM,  
Chairman,  
Petitions Committee,  
Welsh Assembly Government,  
Cardiff Bay, CARDIFF. CF99 1NA.

Dear Mr *Powell,*

I thank you for seeking my views on the recent consultation exercise held by the Hywel Dda Health Board. My observations and comments refer in the main to public engagement process relating to the proposed healthcare changes in LLANELLI and naturally at Prince Philip Hospital.

Suffice to say that:

It goes without saying that my committee and the people of Llanelli and District are disappointed at the impact of the proposals on Prince Philip Hospital and in particular on the A&E Service.

I welcome the opportunity to respond and my criticism of the ENTIRE consultation comes under three main headings.

TIMING,PROCEDURE and EXCLUSION.

TIMING: \*multi million pound expenditure had been committed prior to the start of the consultation. \*this was contrary to the principles of consultation in public bodies as set out by WAG and the Gunning guidelines,which emphasise the requirement of consultation at the FORMATIVE stage.\*this was raised publicly by SOSPPAN in our publication "Question Marks", distributed in March 2012 and is on our website HYPERLINK "<http://SOSPPAN.co.uk>"SOSPPAN.co.uk

PROCEDURE: \*the distribution pattern of questionnaires was such that it marginalised the population of LLANELLI and District by skewing the 'random' distribution and deliberately asking questions relating to specific local situations to a wide uninvolved population to dilute the impact of negative responses.\*the procedure involved distributing questionnaires 'randomly' across the COUNTY areas of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire.\*this marginalised the MAJOR POPULATION CENTRE of LLANELLI,which received only a tiny proportion of the questionnaires it would

have received if the distribution had been done in terms of hospital catchment populations.\* the result is illustrated in the tabular analysis of the 'overwhelming' support for Option B shown on page 53 of the ORS report: the support is clearly from the Withybush, Bronglais and Glangwili catchment areas and the opposition is equally clear from the Prince Philip catchment area, but with a weighting which vastly diminishes the impact it deserves through the huge relative population affected.

EXCLUSION: \*the design of the questionnaire was such as to make the key issues unintelligible to a large section of the population.\* major contributions from elected representatives were ignored: from AM's, our MP and several local authorities including the Llanelli Rural, the Llanelli Town and the Burry Port Councils.\* the concerns of the CHC have essentially been ignored.\* the OVERWHELMINGLY negative and hostile responses to their own 'focus groups' in the PPH catchment area has been ignored.\* the statement from their own clinicians at PPH along with the GP's, stating that the proposed changes are UNSAFE was NOT ONLY ignored but was misrepresented by referring only to an earlier statement endorsing the plans at that time.\* the largest petition in the history of WAG was IGNORED: 26000 signatures in a UNITED PUBLIC VOICE were NOT EVEN granted the courtesy of acknowledgement, let alone respect.\* votes of NO CONFIDENCE were ignored: again without even the courtesy of acknowledgement.

Finally, I have no wish to dwell upon the fundamental factors of Geography, but suffice to record once again that almost a third of the population of the Hywel Dda area live in the Llanelli urban area. They have effectively been under-represented and totally mis-represented by the LHB.

The LHB may have listened, but it is the opinion of many in Llanelli that it certainly did NOT hear the voice of the people, who stated that they are totally opposed to a nurse led A&E.

The question most frequently asked in Llanelli is: "Why does the LHB not offer a nurse led A&E to Bronglais and Withybush, when it is deemed to be suitable to Prince Philip?" The people of Llanelli simply ask for PARITY by having the same facility as provided to Bronglais and Withybush.

Yours respectfully,

*V. Bryan Hirdman*

(CHAIRMAN OF CIHS/SOSPPAN)

