

Yr Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol • Prif Weithredwr, GIG Cymru

Department for Health and Social Services
Director General • Chief Executive, NHS Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Darren Millar AM
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff

Our Ref: DS/TLT

9 July 2013

Dear Darren

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AT BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

I am writing in response to your letter of 3 July seeking information in advance of the Public Accounts Committee hearing on the above which I am scheduled to attend on 18 July 2013. You have specifically asked for details of the short-term interim measures put in place by the Welsh Government to address the recommendations made by the Auditor General for Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

Can I firstly emphasise that I fully recognise the seriousness of the issues facing the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board highlighted in the joint HIW/WAO report. The Board will need to take urgent and sustained action in a wide range of areas. The role of Welsh Government will be to provide support and to ensure the Board makes necessary progress.

The Minister for Health and Social Services previously announced David Jenkins, Chair of Aneurin Bevan Health Board will be providing support to the Health Board. This has already commenced. I have now put arrangements in place to ensure further support is available. Paul Roberts, Chief Executive of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Richard Bowen, Director of Planning at Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board and Bruce Ferguson, until recently Medical Director at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board will be providing support to the Executive Team and the wider organisation. They will dedicate sufficient and significant time to do this. The arrangements will commence in the very near future. The Team providing support during the transitional period will carry the full authority of the Minister and myself.



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My Department has also been working closely with the Health Board to ensure steps are taken to strengthen management and reporting arrangements more generally. The Board are now well advanced in the process for appointing an interim Chief Operating Officer, a Senior Clinical Leader and Turnaround experts to provide expertise in key operational areas. They are also securing support on financial matters from an external consultancy.

At the request of the Chief Medical Officer, Public Health Wales has been supporting the Health Board in relation to infection control to ensure their systems are robust. As part of this work, the Health Board has engaged an expert in infection prevention and control, Professor Brian Duerden, formerly Inspector of Microbiology at the Department of Health, to review their procedures and produce recommendations for improvement. The Health Board expects to receive an initial report from Professor Duerden by the end of July. The terms of reference for his work are to:

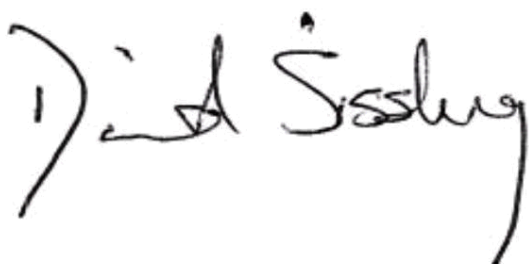
- i. Provide evidence based timely advice to the Health Board on the appropriateness and robustness of its governance and management arrangements for health care associated infections, in particular C difficile.
- ii. To identify all opportunities to strengthen these arrangements so that the incidence of infection is reduced and the board is able to identify and take appropriate action as early as possible should an outbreak occur.

The Board has also already appointed additional expertise through an external specialist nurse in infection control who will join them next week.

More broadly, my Department is providing support on a day to day basis to members of the Executive Team and Board as required – for example the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales is working closely with the newly appointed Director of Nursing.

For your information, the Minister is also intending to make a Statement setting out all the support Welsh Government is providing to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board within the next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Sissling'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

David Sissling