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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf
University Health Board

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10th February 2016

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Chair & Chief Executive

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

Dear Mr Powell

RE: O-04-532 - Improving Specialised Neuromuscular Services in Wales

I refer to your letter requesting views on "how the benefits of providing additional neuromuscular consultant time can be realised across Wales".

The benefit of additional neuromuscular consultant time was one of a number of comments made by ABMU Health Board in its response to the Committee in April 2015.

It is important that the care needs of this particular patient group are planned and delivered in a holistic way. This means that the consultant medical care cannot be considered in isolation from the multi-agency and multi-disciplinary team. Therefore any increase in medical capacity must be considered in the context of the whole service delivery model balancing local access to support with more centralised expert oversight and advice.

Any investment requirements for consultant expansion in this service would need to be considered within the context of the multi-disciplinary model and alongside other priorities for service capacity expansion across the whole of NHS Wales. If this was to be considered a priority for expansion then it would need to be part of a networked service to ensure that the specialist advice and access was available to all Health Boards across Wales. It would not be practical for an additional Consultant to provide local services across multiple Health Boards.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Allison Williams
Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd

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