

SWS

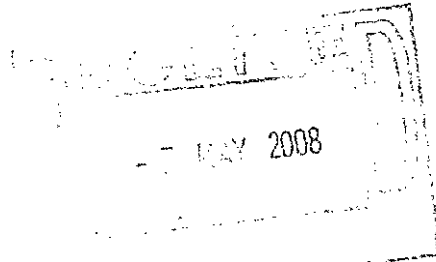
Jane Hutt AC/AM

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-081
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00624/08



RECEIVED
07 MAY 2008

Val Lloyd
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

APSD

30th April 2008

Dea Val,

Thank you for your letter of 23 April from the Petitions Committee concerning the final determination of the secondary undergraduate courses to be included in the Higher Education student support regulations for the academic year 2009/10.

A consultation is shortly due to commence on 6 May on the proposed changes to include in *The Assembly Learning Grants and Loans (Higher Education) (Wales)(No.2) 2008*. The changes include the proposal to remove planning and landscaping courses from the list of secondary undergraduate courses because there are now accelerated postgraduate routes available which negate the need to undertake further lengthy, unnecessary undergraduate level study. My officials are also still in discussion with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and HEFCW with respect to support for Optometry and Pharmacy courses.

I will write to you again once the consultation period has finished on 29th July 2008, and officials have had time to consider any comments arising.

Yours,
Jane

Edwina Hart AM MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/01525/08

Your ref: P-03-085

Val Lloyd AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Dear Val

21 April 2008

Thank you for your letter of 14th March on behalf of the Petitions Committee in relation to Petition P-03-085 Surgeries in Flintshire.

I am committed to ensuring that all buildings providing general medical services are fit for purpose for the 21st Century.

Flintshire Local Health Board (LHB) undertook a consultation on their proposals for primary care in Flint. The priority of schemes is a matter for Local Health Boards taking into account services across their area, the condition of current facilities and other factors. The LHB's Primary Care Estate Strategy may provide further information for you on the LHB prioritisation process.

I am aware of public disquiet and on Wednesday 17th October I announced in Plenary that four reviews would be undertaken on the reconfiguration of health services in N Wales.

The report undertaken by Dr Christopher Jones "A review of the impacts of developments in primary care and community care in relation to Designed for North Wales" was debated in Plenary on Wednesday 5th March. This was essential in considering the best way forward to provide services closer to the local community and avoid duplication of services.

I agreed with Dr Jones' suggestions for Flint Community Hospital, as outlined in the report and have requested that the LHB work with all local stakeholders and key decision makers. Under consideration will also be the possibility of a Primary Care Resource Centre being developed on adjacent land, which would include the three GP surgeries in Flint who submitted the petition.

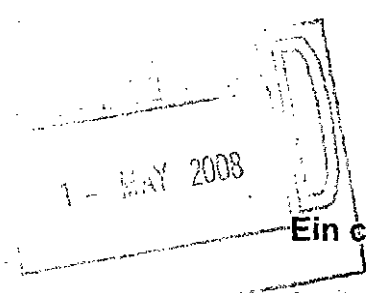
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SNS

creu lle gwell
creating a better place



Asiantaeth yr
Amgylchedd Cymru
Environment
Agency Wales



Ms Val Lloyd
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ein cyf/Our ref: 08 04 Lloyd V 24

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-03-093

Dyddiad/Date: 24 April 2008

Dear Ms Lloyd

PETITION P-03-093: ABERTHAW POWER STATION

I am aware that the above Petition is still under consideration by the Petitions Committee. In my letter to you on 1st April 2008 which contained our evidence, I indicated that you should contact us if you required any further information with regard to this Petition.

However, I am keen to avoid any potential difficulties that may arise in the next two months if, for example, you were to ask for the Environment Agency to attend the Petitions Committee to provide further evidence.

The Aberthaw Power Station Pollution Prevention and Control permit, which is the subject of this Petition, was issued to the operator RWE nPower on 21 December 2007 under the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000. These regulations allow an operator a period of six months, from the date of issue, to appeal any conditions in the permit. This appeal would be to Welsh Ministers.

The provision of evidence to the Petitions Committee prior to the 21 June, may make our ability to deal with any appeal lodged by Aberthaw Power Station more difficult. There is also the further complication which arises given that Welsh Ministers have the appellate role should an operator wish to appeal against the conditions in the permit.

cont'd....

It would, therefore, be helpful if this could be borne in mind in any consideration of our attendance at future Petitions Committee meetings regarding this Petition.

Yours sincerely

Chris Mills

CHRIS MILLS
DIRECTOR WALES

Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct dial 02920 466031

Ffacs uniongyrchol/Direct fax 02920 466417

E-bost uniongyrchol/Direct e-mail chris.mills@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk

cc: Matthew Quinn, Head of Environment, Sustainability & Housing
Ceri Davies, Strategy Unit Manager, Environment Agency Wales

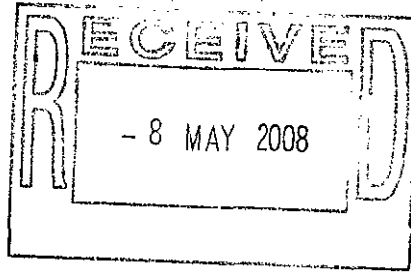
Joanest opinion!

Welsh Affairs Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
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Website <http://www.parliament.uk/welshcom/>



6 May 2008



TS

Dear Val,

Petition from Derwen and District Merched Y Wawr: cross-border health services

Thank you again for copying to me a petition submitted by Derwen and District Marched Y Wawr to Minister Edwina Hart regarding a North Wales Neurological Unit, which was referred to the Petitions Committee for consideration.

This is to let you know that the petition was circulated to all members of the Welsh Affairs Committee and was noted formally at our meeting on 29 April.

Thank you again for sharing this petition with us, and for bearing in mind our continuing inquiry into the provision of cross-border health services in Wales – to which the petition is of course highly relevant.

Wanwyn reports

Hywel Francis

Dr Hywel Francis MP
Chairman, Welsh Affairs Select Committee

Val Lloyd AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

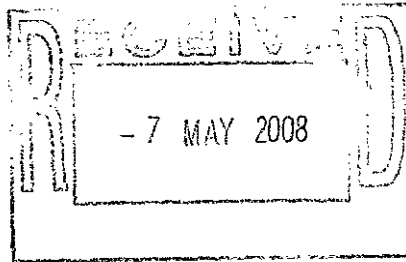
SNS

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/00775/08



Val Lloyd AM
Petitions Committee
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA



APJD

06 May 2008

Dee Val

Thank you for your letter of the 15th April asking for an update on the progress made in reviewing the options for the A487 Trunk Road/ B4548 Aberystwyth Road Junction, Cardigan (Tesco Junction).

I enclose a letter sent to Elin Jones AM and officers of Ceredigion County Council following a meeting to discuss proposals for junction in November 2007.

The feasibility study is now underway, and as stated, the results should be available in the summer.

*Yon
Ieuan*

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

Ieuan Wyn Jones AL/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MB DFM 0131/08

Elin Jones AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1NA

February 2008

A487 Trunk Road/ B4548 Aberystwyth Road Junction, Cardigan

Thank you for inviting me to meet you and representatives from Ceredigion County Council on the 14th November to discuss the Assembly's proposals for the above junction.

At the meeting, all agreed that the temporary arrangements, which restrict right turn in and out at this junction, had resolved the safety issue. However, doubts were expressed about the detrimental impact that making the existing restricted movement junction permanent would have on the movement of traffic within the town. There was also the suggestion that the existing arrangement was leading to long vehicles forced to turn North out of the town making inappropriate "U" turns to travel South. As a result I agreed to review the decision.

This review has now been completed and I'm writing to inform you that I have decided that it would be inappropriate to proceed with permanent works at this location until further work has been undertaken.

Given the concerns expressed at our meeting, Transport Wales will now commission a study to consider in detail the feasibility and associated cost of providing a safe turning facility for vehicles, including large HGVs. The results of this study should be available by the summer.

In the event that no suitable facility can be provided the other options identified in Halcrow's report (i.e. roundabout, gyratory system etc.) will be reconsidered and an appropriate improvement scheme identified.

However, you should note that any improvement scheme adopted would have to compete for the limited available funding against other worthy schemes across Wales. Given this and the need to complete the usual statutory procedures it is unlikely that a start on site could be made before 2011.

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

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CC:

Mr. Huw Morgan,
Director of Highways, Properties and Works
Ceredigion County Council
Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa,
Aberaeron, Ceredigion, SA46 0PA

Mr Keith Evans

Leader of Ceredigion County Council
Ceredigion County Council
Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa,
Aberaeron, Ceredigion, SA46 0PA

Jane Hutt AC/AM

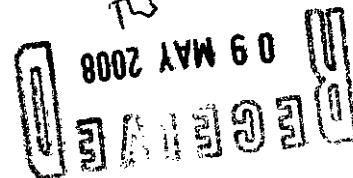
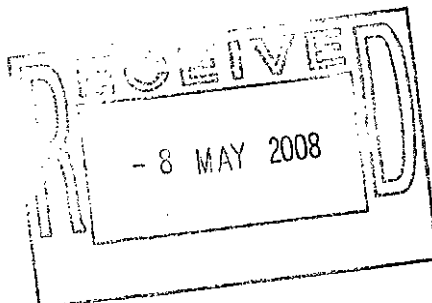
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Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-103
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00625/08

Val Lloyd
National Assembly For Wales
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6th May 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter of 23 April, about the petition your Committee recently considered regarding Welsh medium secondary provision in the former Gwent area. You asked about the implementation of *laith Pawb* in relation to co-ordinating regional provision of Welsh medium secondary education.

The *laith Pawb* policy document does not deal specifically with the question of inter-county cooperation or of making Welsh medium provision at a regional level when there is insufficient demand from one LEA area alone to sustain a secondary school. The document does however draw attention to the need for coherence and consistency between the planning of school places and Welsh Education Schemes, and there is an overarching expectation that all organisations and bodies should comply with their Welsh Language Schemes (of which Welsh Education Schemes form a part).

Each local authority is thus expected to make effective plans to meet parental demand for Welsh-medium education, as long as this is compatible with efficient use of resources. How best to achieve inter-county cooperation for Welsh-medium education and training is an issue that may need more detailed discussion, and perhaps additional guidance, in the light of the issues that have arisen in the Gwent area. This will be an element considered in the new Welsh-medium education and training strategy which will be prepared during 2008-09.

In terms of inter-county cooperation in the 14-19 age group, you may know that Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw is in a successful partnership with Ysgol Cwm Rhymni in Caerphilly to provide extended opportunities, particularly vocational, through the medium of Welsh to learners at the two schools. This is a good example of the partnership agreements that have been funded to assist the development of Welsh-medium and bilingual provision throughout Wales since 2006 under bilingual funding and then 14-19 funding. There are also significant opportunities for cooperation across county boundaries as a result of funding for 29 Welsh-medium and bilingual schools to be equipped with state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment.

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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Turning to the specific problem that arose recently and which led to a number of children attending Welsh medium primary schools in Newport and Monmouthshire being refused admission to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, it may be helpful if I explain the background. In September 1990 Gwent County Council established Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in Pontypool to provide Welsh medium secondary provision in the area. In 1996, following local government reorganisation, Torfaen County Borough council became responsible for the school. Since then the school has provided places for children from Torfaen and the neighbouring authorities of Newport, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent and to a limited extent, Caerphilly, Powys and Cardiff. The school has been expanded a good deal over the years by the addition of demountable classrooms.

However for September 2008 the school received more applications than there were places currently available. Torfaen Local Authority therefore allocated places through the application of its published over subscription criteria. These standard criteria give priority to pupils with older brothers or sisters already at the school and then use the distance from home to school as the next determining factor. Clearly this method is more likely to leave pupils from neighbouring authorities without places than those from Torfaen and of course does not take into account the length of journey which such pupils would face to access an alternative Welsh medium secondary school. This resulted in parents of children currently attending Ysgol y Ffin in Monmouthshire and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd in Newport being informed that they had not been allocated a secondary school place at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw for September 2008.

I was disappointed by the apparent lack of forward planning by the authorities in the former Gwent area to avert this situation. It is the responsibility of local authorities to plan provision and provide school places in the light of local needs and demand from parents. There is a duty (under S14 of the Education Act 1996) on authorities to ensure that there are sufficient schools for their area and this applies to all four authorities concerned, even where the provision being made is not located within their boundaries. However, there is no specific statutory duty to provide schools which offer education through the medium of Welsh, just as there is no statutory duty to provide education through the medium of English. Although S9 of the 1996 Act requires authorities to have regard to the principle that pupils should be educated in accordance with parental wishes, they must do so only to the extent that is compatible with the provision of efficient education and does not involve unreasonable public expenditure.

Nevertheless we have encouraged authorities to be pro-active in assessing demand for Welsh medium places and to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet that demand. I am pleased that many have done so. Clearly, authorities who are planning to expand primary education should also consider how secondary education will be provided. All LEAs also have agreed Welsh Education Schemes with the Welsh Language Board and these should set out their plans for meeting demand.

I am looking to the four Gwent authorities to work together to address the short and long term issues of Welsh medium secondary provision in the area. Torfaen has identified a need to improve and to enlarge the accommodation at Ysgol Gwynllyw in the long term. Any significant enlargement by Torfaen would require the publication of statutory notices and the authority would need to ensure that it had funding in place in order to bring forward such a proposal. Torfaen already receive a per capita contribution to both revenue and capital budgets in recognition of the pupils who attend Ysgol Gwynllyw from other areas. The authority is not therefore disadvantaged in terms of the day to day running costs of Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw by taking pupils from other areas, indeed without those pupils the school would scarcely be large enough to be viable. Similarly their allocations of both School

Buildings Improvement Grant and general capital funding take account of numbers on roll, including pupils who come from neighbouring authorities. However a major redevelopment will require significant levels of capital investment. I understand that Torfaen is discussing potential contributions with the other authorities, who would clearly need to seek some assurances that if they fund an expansion of places at the school, the admissions arrangements will reflect that contribution and secure access, particularly for pupils for whom there is no practical alternative.

Officials from the Schools Management Division of DCELLS attended a meeting of the authorities with an interest in Ysgol Gwynllyw at the end of the Spring term. There were constructive discussions aimed at resolving the situation for September 2008, and for the longer term. I am essentially looking to the Local Authorities to resolve the matter between them, with Welsh Assembly Government officials providing advice on any statutory procedures necessary and funding issues as the need arises. My officials will be discussing with Torfaen Local Authority options for the revision of the admission arrangements and the oversubscription criteria in the future.

I understand that all pupils seeking a place for September 2008 have now been offered places at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw following an agreement between the authorities involved about the way forward.

Bert Hisher,

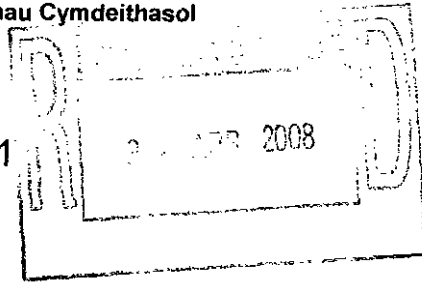
Jane

SNS

Edwina Hart AM MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

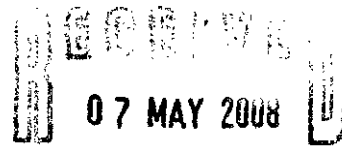
Our ref: EH/02050/08
Your ref: PET-03-110/111



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APSD

29 April 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of the 15th April 2008 regarding the petitions from the Aberconwy Liberal Democrats protesting against the removal of breast surgery services from Llandudno Hospital, and urging me to retain links with hospitals in Liverpool.

As you are aware from my letter to all Assembly Members on the 20th March 2008, I have accepted the recommendations in the Burns Review relating to further service enhancement at Llandudno Hospital, and have asked Conwy Local Health Board to take these recommendations forward in partnership with the NHS Trust, Community Health Council and local clinicians.

As I received a number of important representations from women patients, emphasising the advantages of single sex wards which Llandudno provides, I decided that the current breast care service should remain at Llandudno for the foreseeable future, whilst further work and advice is provided on a model of breast care services in North Wales.

Additionally, following discussions with clinicians, and in light of my acceptance of the recommendations in the Burns Review for the future service enhancement of Llandudno Hospital, I also stated that further work needs to be done to explore the possibility that Llandudno could become a centre of excellence for breast care services.

I am committed to continually improving the care that patients receive in Wales, and this is demonstrated by the progress made to date in reducing waiting times. Ensuring that patients are provided with services of the highest quality and safety

can necessitate the use of both Welsh and English trusts, depending on the needs of each individual patient. We have agreements with hospitals in England, including Liverpool, to ensure that Welsh patients have access to these services.

I trust this information is of assistance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the name 'L. W.' or similar, written in dark ink.