

P-05-946 Save Royal Glamorgan A&E, Correspondence - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to Chair, 04.03.20



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board

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4 March 2020
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Chair and Chief Executive

Ms Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders

Petition P-05-946 Save Royal Glamorgan A&E

Thank you for your letter of 10 February 2020 and for inviting my views on the above petition and the issues it raises.

Firstly, I must stress that no decision has been made by the University Health Board in relation to the future provision of emergency medicine at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital (RGH). We have, however, established a project to address the outstanding recommendations of the South Wales Programme, which includes an extant decision, previously endorsed by the former Cwm Taf UHB, NHS Wales and Welsh Government, that a consultant led emergency medicine department (A&E) should no longer operate at the RGH and that it should be replaced by a nurse led minor injuries unit.

The background to, and rationale for, the current project are set out in the enclosed paper that was considered by our Board in January. This makes clear that we are not simply accepting that the original SWP recommendation in relation to the RGH emergency department remains valid.

At the January Board meeting, a decision was made to further develop two options for further assessment, whilst 'leaving no stone unturned' in attempts to seek to recruit sufficient specialist emergency medicine doctors to maintain a 24 hour consultant led service. The two options being developed further are described in the enclosed second paper, received by the Board at its February meeting.

Cyfeiriad Dychwelyd/ Return Address:

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Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, Headquarters, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

Cadeirydd/Chair: Professor Marcus Longley Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive : Dr Sharon Hopkins

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Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is the operational name of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Local Health Board

The February Board paper also provided a briefing on the activity conducted within the project up to that point, with a particular emphasis on our extensive engagement with the public and staff and the messages we have received. We have ensured that Welsh Government officials and Ministers have been kept informed of progress.

In summary, we are following an appropriate and open process, subject to public and political scrutiny, that will result in defined options being brought to the Board for further consideration and, ultimately a formal Board decision on future service delivery. I do not think it would be appropriate for the Welsh Government to intervene in this process.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hopkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Sharon Hopkins
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive