



Your ref/eich cyf: P-04-334  
Our ref/ein cyf: AJW/KAD  
Date/Dyddiad: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
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Dept/adran: Chair & Chief Executive

Ms Naomi Stocks  
Clerk of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Stocks

**Re: Renal Dialysis Scheme for Merthyr**

I refer to the letter of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012, from Mr William Powell AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee, seeking an update on plans for the Renal Dialysis Unit at Prince Charles Hospital. The initial BJC for the satellite dialysis unit in Merthyr was submitted in May 2011, and he may recall there were concerns over the scope of works and associated costs. By agreement, the revised BJC was submitted to the Welsh Government in mid May this year, the scrutiny comments were received at the end of June and the responses to the scrutiny comments were submitted on 16th August 2012.

As you know the condition of the current modular building is not good and although the concerns last autumn about the heating/air conditioning have been resolved and the systems replaced, there have more recently been problems with the water system. A contingency plan exists in case of significant problems which involves patients travelling to other dialysis units in South Wales until a new unit is operational.

I am aware that the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) were to submit by the end of July a costed proposal for an off-site option produced by a third party renal service provider. They believed this could be less costly, and more importantly, be completed in a significantly shorter period of time as it may involve conversion of an existing building rather than a new build.

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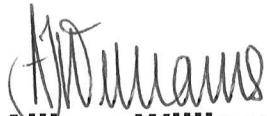
**Return Address:**

Ynysmeurig House, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

I understand that the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) have recently met with patients representatives and are in the process of submitting a paper to Welsh Government officials with a recommendation on either the off-site or PCH site option. My understanding is that this is due to be put before the Minister this month, with a Ministerial decision expected around the end of October or early November.

The LHB is keen that a decision is made soon, and more importantly, that services can be improved quickly to reduce the risks of service interruption to patients from the current unsatisfactory accommodation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Allison Williams**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Cwm Taf Health Board**