

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau  
Petitions Committee

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru  
National  
Assembly for  
Wales



David Rees AM  
Chair  
Health and Social Care Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Tŷ Hywel  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-04-520

12 December 2013

Dear *David*

The Petitions Committee has received the following petition submitted by Kate O'Dell, which has collected almost 500 signatures.

*We the undersigned believe the cancellation of all orthopaedic surgery except trauma, during the Winter months 2013/14 undermines the human rights of patients and discriminates against disability. We demand that this decision be urgently revisited. All decisions regarding the priority of patient needs should be made by clinicians rather than the administration making decisions based on financial restrictions.*

*There are seriously urgent cases, other than trauma, already on the waiting list who without surgery are in danger of losing mobility and consequently their livelihood.*

*In a political climate where patients should be listened to, in this case they have not even been informed let alone been consulted, the Hywel Dda decision would appear to be directly in conflict with this principle.*

*Neither can we understand why orthopaedic patients should be targeted. This seems an over simplistic approach to addressing financial problems. Not only are patients affected by such decisions but specialist staff and trainees are not allowed to do the job they are paid for and wish to do.*

*We call upon the Welsh Government to reverse this decision..*

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
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Croesewir qohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

The Committee considered this petition for the first time at our meeting on 10 December and agreed to draw it to the attention of your Committee for information. The Committee also agreed to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services and to Hywel Dda Health Board asking for their urgent views on the issues raised by the petition. I attach a copy of the letter to the Minister for your information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William".

**William Powell AC / AM**  
Cadeirydd / Chair