Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services
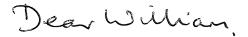
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-568
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/02705/14

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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25 July 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-568 - Public Enquiry into Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

The 'Trusted to Care' report findings did not make easy reading and I gave an unreserved apology to those individuals and their families whose care had fallen short of what they might expect from the Welsh NHS. I have made clear I expected immediate improvements to patient care at both hospitals concerned.

The Welsh Government is determined that nothing of this sort will be tolerated in these two hospitals, in this health board, or indeed anywhere else in Wales in the future. This is why we ordered a series of actions to ensure that the standards that we demand of our health service are being delivered and to reassure patients.

This included instigating a programme of unannounced spot checks in all district general hospitals across Wales to test standards of care and reassure patients These unannounced spot checks are now well underway and being carried out by a team of senior individuals who will report directly to me. I updated Assembly Members on progress before the summer recess. I am also, over the Summer, seeking feedback on the Evans Report on complaints handling in the NHS in Wales.

Best wishes,

Mark.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services