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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Mr William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ein cyf / Our ref: TP/SB/1713/012

Eich cyf / Your ref: P-04-466/P-04-479

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Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Trevor Purt

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Dyddiad / Date: 1 July 2014

Dear Mr Powell

- **P-04-466, Medical Emergency – Preventing the Introduction of a Poorer Health Service for North Wales**
- **P-04-479, Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition**

Thank you for your letter requesting further information following correspondence from the lead petitioners for the above.

Firstly, the Committee asks for clarification of the situation regarding minor injuries provision in Tywyn.

I can confirm that the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) in Tywyn is open from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday during winter months and 7 days a week during summer months.

I can also confirm, as stated previously, that the Health Board holds an enhanced service agreement with the GP practice in Tywyn for the provision of minor injuries.

The GP practice works very closely with the MIU and there is cross-cover for certain aspects of service between the two. It is possible that this has led to the misunderstanding held by your petitioner.

I understand, and we have previously acknowledged, that there are strong feelings concerning the loss of the overnight service. I can only reiterate, as previously said, that the service was deemed to be unsustainable in view of the low level of demand and the difficulty in staffing it overnight for this low level of activity.

We do continue to review the position and I have asked my staff to update me on any issues in the area before confirming this response. I understand that there has not been any noticeable increase in patients attending Dolgellau Hospital, the locality “hub” and staff have not raised any further significant issues.

With regard to the examples quoted in the correspondence, the appropriate response from the NHS would depend on the seriousness of the issue in each case, and I am afraid that without details I am unable to comment specifically. A child experiencing



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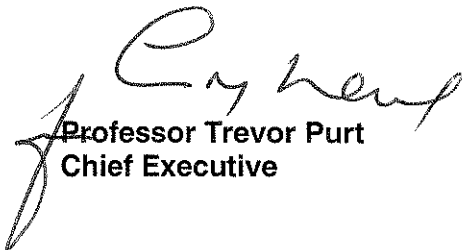
breathing difficulties can indeed be a concerning situation; however if serious, then an ambulance should be called for attendance at a major hospital Emergency Department. Similarly, depending on the severity of the injury, a head injury should also be treated at an Emergency Department.

I acknowledge that there remains concern that the health needs of the community in Tywyn are not being addressed equitably. I note that your correspondent has welcomed the development of the hospital. We also see this as a positive opportunity to improve both facilities and also joint working between health care professionals in the area, and, we hope, social services professionals. The new development will bring the GP practice and the hospital together.

We are also keen to hear the outcome of the review of healthcare in mid Wales being led by WIHSC. We hope that this may help identify further ways of improving access to services and joint working between the Health Boards supporting the mid Wales area.

I hope this response is of help.

Yours sincerely



Professor Trevor Purt
Chief Executive