

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-04-621/622
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00600/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
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13 May 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 13 February on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding petitions P-04-621 and P-04-622 in relation to the temporary changes to consultant-led maternity services at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board made the decision to temporarily suspend consultant-led maternity services at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd on the grounds of safety. This decision was taken against the background of two Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' reports in 2014, which described a dysfunctional culture among senior medical staff at the unit. The health board was also unable to sustain the middle grade medical staff rota following a decision by the Wales Deanery in August 2014 to withdraw obstetric trainees from Ysbyty Glan Clwyd because of concerns about the quality of training they were receiving.

However, following feedback from clinicians and the public, the proposed service model now shows some important changes to the original plans submitted to the bBoard in February. The Special Care Baby Unit will now be retained with round-the-clock paediatric services at the hospital. Inpatient breast surgery will be centred at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd with breast day case surgery retained at Ysbyty Gwynedd and Wrexham Maelor Hospital. Additionally, day case gynaecology will stay at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd so that patients having low-risk procedures can continue to have their care locally. The Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit will also be retained at the hospital as a nurse-led service.

The legal challenge against the health board's temporary changes was heard on 7 – 8 May. The Judge has made an injunction to stop the changes taking place until she has handed down her judgement.

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The hearing will now be reconvened at a later date (June at the earliest) and you will appreciate that it would not be appropriate for me to comment in the meantime.

I hope the committee finds this information helpful.

Best wishes,
Mark

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