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10 October 2013

Dear Darren

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AT BETSI  
CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD**

Thank you for your letter dated 25 September 2013. I am very grateful to you for drawing to Healthcare Inspectorate Wales' (HIW) attention the correspondence that you have recently received from Professors Healy and Merfyn Jones relating to Governance Arrangements at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB).

I can confirm that HIW is aware of the concerns raised by Professor Healy, and we have been keeping a 'watching brief' on the actions being taken forward by the Health Board regarding these matters. As you may be aware that the Delivery Unit recently undertook an examination of the arrangements at the Hergest Unit, and in addition the Health Board has asked the Royal College of Psychiatrists to undertake a review of the Unit. The review by the Royal College began in September and once the final report is available I will be meeting with the Health Board to discuss its finding and to assure myself that any necessary action is taken forward at pace.

In respect of your specific question as to whether there would be merit in the Committee holding an additional evidence session on your inquiry into 'Governance Arrangements at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board', my view is that there would be very little merit in this. The joint report we produced with the Wales Audit Office, together with the evidence already presented to the PAC illustrated quite clearly the issues in relation to the gap between the Board and ward/service delivery level, therefore I question what the benefit of

further discussion and debate of an already well explored issue would be. I believe that there now needs to be a focus on assuring ourselves and citizens that the Health Board is adequately addressing such issues and moving them forward. Since the publication of the joint report in June of this year I have regular discussions with the Acting Chief Executive and Nurse Executive to assure myself that progress is being made. I consider there to be clear evidence that there is now a real focus on the quality and safety of patient care and on ensuring that the right governance frameworks are put in place, to address the gap between the Board and those providing patient care.

I am meeting with the new Chairman next week to discuss the findings of the joint review and to get a sense of the next steps that he intends to take. At that meeting I will be raising with Peter the need for us to have continued and regular dialogue with the Health Board and the requirement for a follow-up review in due course.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Chamberlain'.

**DR KATE CHAMBERLAIN**  
Chief Executive