



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1350
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/00726/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

08 April 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Petition P-06-1350 Re-open Dyfi Ward at Tywyn Hospital now

Thank you for your letter of 7 March.

You will be aware the committee previously wrote to the then Minister for Health and Social Services in May 2023, who advised that this is an operational matter for the health board, and one in which Welsh Ministers cannot directly intervene. This remains the case.

I understand how strongly people feel about their local health services. However, health boards in Wales remain responsible for the planning and delivery of healthcare services to meet the needs of their local population. In doing so, they will need to consider a range of options and may need to make difficult decisions on how this can be delivered within the financial and staffing resources available. My role and that of the Welsh Government is to set the strategic direction for the NHS in Wales.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has always stated its intention is to try to reinstate the Dyfi inpatient ward at Tywyn Hospital. However, challenges in recruitment and retention of staff within the local area over the past two years have led to continued concerns about the health board's ability to secure and maintain the required minimum safe staffing levels for a 24/7 inpatient ward at the hospital on a sustainable basis.

My predecessors have raised this matter with the chair of the health board on a number of occasions, as have I in the time since I was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care. We have been clear that the Board must continue to engage with the local community and key stakeholders to understand their views, to help inform development of a coherent long-term plan for the future of service provision in the area in line with national guidance.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

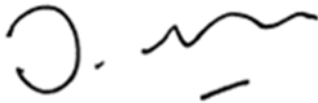
In the time since the Dyfi ward has been closed, the health board has enhanced the range of services available in the community. Feedback and learning from this approach will also help to inform its consideration of the best model of service delivery for this locality moving forward.

I understand that further engagement is planned with the local community and key stakeholders including Llais in early 2025 to discuss a more sustainable way forward . This will include a range of events and activities to support wider engagement with the local community.

My officials continue to monitor this situation in line with oversight and assurance arrangements in place with the health board.

I hope this information is helpful in your consideration of the petition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care