

Dear Rhodri,

With reference to the above Petition, please note Mark's e-mail below to the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board for your information and further consideration in the Committee's review.

Kind regards

Jessica

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Dear Mr. Lang,

After having received correspondence from William Powell, Chair of the Petitions Committee for the National Assembly for Wales regarding the petition P-03-85 Surgeries in Flintshire, which raised concerns of GP Practices difficulties in offering enough appointments to patients and the need to move to larger premises, I referred the matter to the Betsi Community Health Council who advised that "discussions between the Laurels Surgery and the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board have been on-going...".

They stated that "the Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Council is currently awaiting an update from the health board on the overall situation regarding any development of the practices...".

I have since met with The Laurels Surgery, one of the Practices affected and have been advised of the following:

- There are 3 Flint GP Surgeries within 80 miles of each other.
- A survey undertaken 4/5 years ago found that the Cottage Hospital was not big enough.
- I understand that the Health Board said that GP Surgeries and the Cottage Hospital were not linked, but this was contested on the basis of evidence by local politicians. For example, the three GP Practices have beds in the Cottage Hospital.
- There are potential new housing developments, but GP Practices are being told that there is no money available to them but that they must keep their lists open.
- I am informed that the initial problem is that when housing developments are approved, there is no discussion of the infrastructure needed. We must start linking the two together.
- It is becoming clinically unsafe in some GP surgeries. Welsh Government statistics in September 2010 reported 1,838 average patients per full time equivalent GP, but they currently have 2,060 – and that is only because they took on a new GP last year. A GP Practice in Shotton is on nearly 2,200.
- They are bursting at the seams and lots of Practices are in the same situation.
- The Laurels Surgery would like to be a training Practice but that would require a dedicated room, which they don't have. They are therefore not able to help young Doctors coming through.
- Closure of minor injury units is affecting GP Practices – they don't have the capacity or the equipment but are taking the flack.
- There has been no on-going discussion with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board for years other than over the portakabin outside.

I would therefore be grateful if you could give this matter your attention, clarify the current situation and confirm the Health Board's intended course of action.

Yours sincerely

Mark Isherwood AM

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Dear Mr. Lang,

Further to my previous e-mail below to you, please note that the first bullet point should state that:

- There are 3 Flint GP Surgeries within 80 yards of each other.

And not 80 miles.

Yours sincerely

Mark Isherwood AM