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**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Cyllid

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**National Assembly for Wales**  
Finance Committee

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03 January 2018

Dear Dai Lloyd AM

Please find attached a letter from John Francis dated 5 December 2017 addressed to the Finance Committee regarding funding of Welsh Air Ambulance and the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service. I have advised Mr Francis that as his letter concerns expenditure within the health portfolio, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee will be made aware of his correspondence.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Thomas'.

Simon Thomas AM

[REDACTED]

Simon Thomas AM  
Chairman Finance Committee  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

5 Dec 2017

I saw recently on BBC News that waiting times for planned surgery, A&E and cancer treatment have all increased large scale in Wales. Also on the news recently was a report that ambulances in Wales are being left unavailable to respond to emergencies because of lack of staff.

Yet NHS Wales and the Welsh Government manages to find millions of pounds to waste on the practically useless Welsh Air Ambulance and the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service that accompanies it. This "service" is of little benefit to very few and is just a glamorous novelty, they have even expanded the air ambulance to north Wales and squandered more funds by doing so.

The Welsh Government have told me that they currently spend nearly three million pounds on this useless service each year and that figure is rising. I think of how far better precious NHS funding could be spent in Wales, helping people in daily need waiting for emergency operations and cancer treatment, alleviating A&E queues and funding more ambulance staff.

If only NHS Wales was better managed by responsible people only concerned with patient care. And they were not trying to make themselves popular with ignorant people by wasting NHS funds on their own pet projects like the Welsh Air Ambulance and the EMRTS.

Also more NHS money is wasted on useless administrative offices like manager Jan Worthing's department at Singleton Hospital and also manager Susan Fords at ABM University Health Board headquarters. Both are great supporters of this enormous waste of public funds that is thrown away on the Welsh Air Ambulance and the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service.

Sincerely,



John Francis.