

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06034/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

11th

March 2012

Dear Bill,

Petition P-04-367 Save our Hospital Services

Thank you for your letter of 27 February regarding the Save Our Hospital Services petition and Prince Philip Hospital. I want to reassure you neither I, nor Hywel Dda Local Health Board, have any plans to downgrade or close any district general hospitals, Prince Philip included.

In regular meetings with the Chair of Hywel Dda Health Board, I have been reassured plans are very much focused on upgrading, rather than downgrading services across Hywel Dda including Prince Phillip.

The Health Board tells me there are no plans for significant change to Prince Philip and I am pleased to hear there are options currently being considered to enhance the role of the Breast Care Unit and Elective Orthopaedic services and to provide a new Specialised Rehab Centre of Excellence.

Hywel Dda Health Board is in the process of engaging with staff and the local population to produce proposals for service change, which will be put forward in the next few months for thorough public consultation

I have made it clear the status quo is not an option for the Health Service in Wales. As the Wanless Report of 2003 said and the Bevan Commission reiterated recently, the NHS has to change to ensure future services are safe, sustainable and of the best quality.

All local Health Boards are currently drafting proposals for the future of services to ensure the Welsh NHS meets a number of challenges, from an ageing population to a UK-wide problem with recruitment.

All plans put forward by Health Boards across Wales will be scrutinised, not only by independent clinicians on the National Clinical Forum, but by the Welsh Government and most importantly, by the public. It is vital people engage with those plans over the coming months.

Regards
Lesley

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