

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA(P)/VG/8105/16

Eluned Morgan AM  
Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

20 December 2016

Dear Eluned,

I am writing further to the Urgent Question you asked in plenary on 22 November in relation to the temporary changes to paediatric services at Worthybush Hospital.

During the discussion, I undertook to write to Hywel Dda University Health Board seeking assurances that these changes were temporary, whilst the recruitment challenges were addressed. I also said I would clarify that transport arrangements were in place where there was a need for a child to be transported to a different place to receive their care, including their safe return.

The chair and chief executive of the health board have responded to address these points and I enclose a copy of their letter for your information. They confirm that the changes are temporary, with a view to establishing a more robust 12 hour service model as soon as possible. They add this is not without risk, as it is dependent on recruitment and agreeing a sustainable service model.

They also confirm they are doing all they can to reduce the impact the temporary changes have on families. This includes the Dedicated Ambulance Vehicle, funded transport schemes, and help under the NHS travel costs scheme. In exceptional circumstances, where no alternatives are available, vulnerable families will be provided with a paid taxi to return home.

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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.

I hope this response provides you with the assurances you are seeking. I am copying this letter to Paul Davies AM, Simon Thomas AM, Joyce Watson AM and Neil Hamilton AM, who all contributed during the Urgent Question.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'V' at the beginning and a long, horizontal tail at the end.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

Ein cyf/Our ref: CH.1032.1116  
Eich cyf/Your ref: MA(P)/VG/7720/16  
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Dyddiad/Date: 06 December 2016

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Dear Cabinet Secretary

## Re: Paediatric Ambulatory Care Unit at Withybush General Hospital

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2016, regarding temporary changes to the opening hours of the Paediatric Ambulatory Care Unit (PACU) at Withybush General Hospital (WGH).

At the Board's Public Meeting held on 24 November 2016, it was with sincere regret that the Board took the decision to reduce the opening hours of Withybush PACU on a temporary basis from 10am -10pm to 10am - 6pm daily. This decision was based on clinical safety grounds, given challenges in the recruitment of consultant paediatricians, combined with particular problems in Pembrokeshire due to the retirement of one consultant coinciding with maternity leave of another and sickness.

These changes will be effective from Monday 5 December 2016 and we are carefully planning this temporary change with all our staff and partners, including the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust.

This change is temporary, with a view to us establishing a more robust 12-hour service model as soon as we can. This, of course, is not without risk as it is dependent upon recruitment and agreeing a sustainable service model.

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Cadeirydd / Chair  
**Mrs Bernardine Rees OBE**

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive  
**Mr Steve Moore**

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Hywel Dda  
Hywel Dda University Health Board is the operational name of Hywel Dda University Local Health Board

Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yn amgylchedd di-fwg Hywel Dda University Health Board operates a smoke free environment

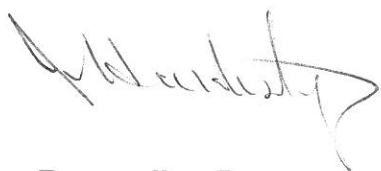
From this week, we are establishing a Task and Finish Group, chaired at Executive level, with clinicians and managers, to closely monitor the change and ensure further work is progressed in areas, including recruitment and technology. The Task and Finish Group will also consider how best to engage with the public and our stakeholders on a longer term plan to restore the service to 12-hour. Weekly updates will be provided to Hywel Dda Community Health Council, as well as regular updates for the general public.

We are also doing all we can to reduce the impact on families. This includes provision of the Dedicated Ambulance Vehicle (DAV) for transfers between Withybush and Glangwili hospitals; provision of funded transport schemes (such as that provided by Action for Children): help under the NHS Travel Costs scheme; and, in exceptional circumstances where no alternatives are available, vulnerable families will be provided with a paid for taxi to return home.

Recruitment efforts will continue, both for substantive, permanent and locum (temporary) paediatric consultants.

I trust this update is of assistance but please do let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



BR - **Bernardine Rees**  
Chair



**Steve Moore**  
Chief Executive