

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/
Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru
Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Director General Health and Social Services/
NHS Wales Chief Executive
Health and Social Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mrs Allison Williams
Chief Executive
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
Ynysmeurig House
Navigation Park
Abercynon
CF45 4SN

Our Ref: AG/MR/SB

3 May 2019

Dear Allison

Joint Escalation and Intervention Arrangements

As you will be aware, under the NHS Wales Joint Escalation and Intervention Arrangements, any of the three organisations (Welsh Government, Wales Audit Office and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales) has the opportunity to call for an extraordinary meeting if they feel there are particular concerns with an organisation.

Following the raised escalation level to 'enhanced monitoring' in January, it was agreed that the escalation level of the organisation would be kept under review. The Minister for Health and Social Services asked for a further tripartite meeting to take place once the Royal Colleges' report in to maternity services had been received to decide on the escalation status of maternity services, as well as the overall escalation status of the health board. A meeting therefore took place in April 2019 and I am writing to you with the outcome, noting that you are aware of this status through the publication of the Royal Colleges Review.

Following tripartite discussions, the Minister agreed that the escalation status for maternity services within the former Cwm Taf University Health Board area should be placed in special measures. This reflected the serious and concerning findings of the review and has directed the actions associated with this for maternity services.

As you will be aware, the Minister has now put in place an independent maternity oversight panel led by Mick Giannasi to:



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Parc Cathays • Cathays Park
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Ffôn • Tel 0300 0251182
Andrew.Goodall@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Gwefan • website: www.wales.gov.uk

- seek robust assurance that the report recommendations are being implemented against agreed milestones;
- agree a process and establish an independent multidisciplinary clinical review of the identified 43 cases and a look back exercise to 2010, as recommended by the review;
- advise your organisation on actions needed for effective public and user engagement in improving maternity services and rebuilding trust and confidence; and
- advise him on progress, including the need for and timing of any follow up review.

On the broader escalation status of the organisation, reflecting the seriousness of maternity concerns and other issues notably in respect of quality governance, the Minister agreed a change of escalation status from Enhanced Monitoring to Targeted Intervention. Specifically there are a number of concerns around effective governance and leadership, which requires further review to be reported back to the Minister.

The Minister has therefore put in place additional arrangements to seek assurance and improve the effectiveness of Board leadership and governance in your organisation. The Minister has asked David Jenkins, former chair of Aneurin Bevan UHB to:

- provide advice and support to your Chair;
- provide feedback to the Board as appropriate; and
- advise him of any further actions that may be required to develop the Board to ensure it has robust and effective governance and assurance arrangements in place.

This work will be further supported by a governance review which HIW has confirmed it plans to undertake over the coming months. The HIW work will be aligned with any further work undertaken by the Wales Audit Office.

I have also asked the NHS Wales Delivery Unit to work with your organisation to ensure there are effective arrangements in place for the reporting, management and review of patient safety incidents and concerns.

I will expect you to ensure that any other interventions and actions, above and beyond those already highlighted are put in place to provide assurance to the local population that maternity services and other services within the health board are safe.

We will now be putting in place formal escalation meetings in respect of the escalation status for maternity services and the broader organisation. Welsh Government officials will continue to have regular Quality and Delivery and JET meetings with subject specific discussions as and when necessary.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Goodall CBE