



Darren Millar MS
Senedd Member for Clwyd West

Darren.millar@senedd.wales

1 November 2021

Dear Darren,

During Business Questions on 19 October 2021 you requested an urgent statement from myself in relation to concerns about Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board attempting to keep its name secret in a case involving 'failures in the care of a mental health patient' and more widely on the progress that the health board is making, following its withdrawal from special measures.

Taking each point in turn and starting with the court case, I am assured that anonymity for all parties within Court of Protection proceedings when there is a transparency order in place is usual practice. In this instance, the official solicitor who was representing the patient asked the judge to waive the anonymity of the Health Board in this case. The Health Board did not feel that this was beneficial due to the potential for patient confidentiality issues. The judge decided to the contrary, it being in the public interest.

Turning to progress following special measures, you will be aware that mental health services across the health board are in targeted intervention. This is a very heightened level of escalation and as such the health board is under high levels of scrutiny from Welsh Government, HIW and Audit Wales. Our observations are that the health board is taking targeted intervention very seriously and have welcomed the support and structure this brings. We are noting changes in culture and openness across the board as a result of the targeted intervention. The service, however, has a long way to go. We are expecting to see progress at our next review meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.