

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/0176/17

North Wales Assembly Members
Health spokespeople
Chair, Health, Social Services and Sport Committee

30 January 2017

Dear Assembly Members,

You will be aware the Health and Social Care Advisory Service (HASCAS) comprehensive independent investigation into concerns relating to the care of individual patients on the Tawel Fan Ward is making progress and moving into the final stages. As is Donna Ockenden's governance review.

I attach a letter that was sent to the Tawel Fan patient families to inform them of the establishment of an independent oversight panel, to provide assurance and ensure the work is concluded in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport

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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.



Tawel Fan Families

26 January 2017

Dear Families,

I am writing to you regarding the comprehensive HASCAS independent investigation into 'Concerns Relating to the Care of Individual Patients on Tawel Fan and Donna Ockenden's governance review.

It is important that these vital pieces of work command confidence. As they move into the final stages prior to publication, I have decided to establish an independent oversight panel. A number of families affected and wider stakeholders have asked for clarity on the governance and oversight arrangements. The role of the panel is to provide assurance on the integrity of the investigation and governance review and ensure they are concluded in a timely way. In particular the panel will provide assurance that the content or timing of these reports are protected from any inappropriate influence.

Three highly experienced and very senior people have been appointed to the panel:

Jack Straw will Chair the panel. He has previously been both a Chief Executive of a Local Authority and Local Health Board as well as a Director of Social Services;

Helen Bennett currently works for Hafal and is a recognised leader in the field of mental health. She has previously worked with the Care Quality Commission, the Public Services Ombudsman and Royal College of Psychiatrists on quality and standards; and

Philip Hodgson who previously held Director of Social Services positions in local authorities and Welsh Government appointments including the Chair of the National Safeguarding Advisory Panel.

The Panel will begin work in the week commencing the 30 January, 2017.

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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.

There will be further communication from the panel as the work progresses over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

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

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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