



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

The Petitions Committee

Completion Report

**Report of the Petitions Committee's consideration of
P-03-110 North Wales' Links with Hospitals in Liverpool /
P-03-111 Llandudno Breast Surgery Unit**

June 2008

Presented

6 March 2008

Ruled Admissible

7 March 2008

Initial Consideration

10 April 2008

The committee agreed to:

- Ask the Minister for Health and Social Services to consider this petition in her determination of hospital provision for North Wales
- Ask the Minister for Health and Social Services to confirm that Breast Surgery services are to remain at Llandudno Hospital

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 10 April and Annex 2 for the letter sent to the Minister for Health and Social Services)

Further Consideration

22 May 2008

The Committee considered a response from the Minister for Health and Social Services and agreed to:

- Close the petition as the petitions aims have been met by the Welsh Assembly Government.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 22 May and Annex 3 for the letter received from the Minister for Health and Social Services)

Petitions Clerk
June 2008

Annex 1

Extracts from Petitions Committee meetings

10 April 2008

Val Lloyd: Petition P-03-110, on north Wales hospitals, reads as follows.

'We/I the undersigned urge that North Wales links with hospitals in Liverpool be continued and object to the centralising in Cardiff and Swansea.'

I think that we covered this in the last meeting, did we not?

Michael German: What we have not done, and what I suggest we do, is ask the Minister to write a response that we can then pass on to the petitioner. I know that the Minister feels strongly about petitions being answered, and so, asking her to provide an answer to the petitioners should not be a problem. However, I suggest that, instead of informing the Minister, we ask her to give us a response to this matter—which she has done, anyway. We have it, so we could just pass it on to the petitioner.

Val Lloyd: I am quite content with that. If it gives more comfort to the petitioners, that is fine. I imagine that the same thing will apply to the next petition, P-03-111, which is on Llandudno breast unit, given that the Minister has publicly said that it is staying, following the review. So, we will write to the Minister formally on both of these, and send her reply to the petitioners. Thank you for that suggestion, Mike.

22 May 2008

Val Lloyd: That takes us to the final formal update on petition P-03-110/111, Llandudno breast surgery and north Wales hospitals. We have received a response from the Minister. This was a dual petition. One petition was to do with continuing north Wales hospitals' links with the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Liverpool rather than with Cardiff and Swansea, which we have addressed. The other petition is about the removal of breast surgery treatment provision from Llandudno, and the Minister's letter points out that she has accepted the recommendations of the Burns review, which relates to enhancing breast care at Llandudno. So, I think that we can safely close this petition, because we have achieved what the petitioners wanted. It is rather nice to be able to say that.

Annex 2

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Edwina Hart AM
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CF11 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-110/111
Your ref:

11 April 2008

PETITION : NORTH WALES HOSPITALS AND LLANDUDNO BREAST SURGERY UNIT

The Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales has been considering two new petitions from the Aberconwy Liberal Democrats. The first petition (P-03-110) urges the Government to maintain North Wales's links with hospitals in Liverpool. The second (P-03-111) petition objects to any proposals to remove the Breast Surgery Unit from Llandudno. The petitions were given initial consideration by the Committee at its last meeting on the 10 April 2008.

Could you please confirm in writing that you will consider the request of the petitioners in future consideration of hospital provision for North Wales as well as confirming that breast surgery services are to remain in Llandudno.

I should be grateful if you could consider this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Val Lloyd,
Chair, Petitions Committee

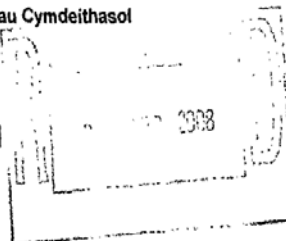
Annex 3

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Edwina Hart AM MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/02050/08
Your ref: PET-03-110/111



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07 MAY 2008

APSD

29 April 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of the 15th April 2008 regarding the petitions from the Aberconwy Liberal Democrats protesting against the removal of breast surgery services from Llandudno Hospital, and urging me to retain links with hospitals in Liverpool.

As you are aware from my letter to all Assembly Members on the 20th March 2008, I have accepted the recommendations in the Burns Review relating to further service enhancement at Llandudno Hospital, and have asked Conwy Local Health Board to take these recommendations forward in partnership with the NHS Trust, Community Health Council and local clinicians.


As I received a number of important representations from women patients, emphasising the advantages of single sex wards which Llandudno provides, I decided that the current breast care service should remain at Llandudno for the foreseeable future, whilst further work and advice is provided on a model of breast care services in North Wales.

Additionally, following discussions with clinicians, and in light of my acceptance of the recommendations in the Burns Review for the future service enhancement of Llandudno Hospital, I also stated that further work needs to be done to explore the possibility that Llandudno could become a centre of excellence for breast care services.

I am committed to continually improving the care that patients receive in Wales, and this is demonstrated by the progress made to date in reducing waiting times. Ensuring that patients are provided with services of the highest quality and safety

● can necessitate the use of both Welsh and English trusts, depending on the needs of each individual patient. We have agreements with hospitals in England, including Liverpool, to ensure that Welsh patients have access to these services.

I trust this information is of assistance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'L. J. ...', located below the text.

