



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ80353

Andrew R.T. Davies MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

18 June 2020

Dear Andrew,

I'm writing in response to WQ80353: What consideration has the Minister given to using temporary sites such as the Dragon's Heart Hospital for the establishment of a suitable step-down and step-up isolation facility to enable care homes to have some security from Covid-19?

Local Health Boards are responsible for working with NHS, public and private sector partners to develop clinical and operational models of care for field hospitals and other surge facilities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The [COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements \(Wales\)](#), published on 7th April, were updated on 29th April to provide further clarification in relation to patient pathways for step down and step up care, in line with the new approach to testing on discharge for people normally resident in care homes or potentially being discharged to a care home.

We have received operational plans from all NHS Wales Health Boards and Trusts in relation to the [NHS Wales COVID-19 Operating Framework for Quarter 1 of 2020/21](#). Plans relating to the use of field hospitals include capacity for step down and step up care, in accordance with the *COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements (Wales)*. We will continue to work with them to consider opportunities for the longer-term use of these facilities, including regional approaches.

The Dragon's Heart Hospital has been used as a step-down facility for patients recovering from Covid-19 since it opened in April, with rehabilitation therapy available to patients 10 hours a day, seven days a week. This helps to shorten their length of stay, providing good experiences and outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.

