

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-MD-1169-16

Kirsty Williams AM
Assembly Member for Brecon and Radnorshire
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

28 March 2016

Dear Kirsty

I am writing to you about access to chemotherapy services in community hospitals in your constituency following an exchange during FMQs on 1 March.

As you know, Powys Teaching Health Board does not currently provide chemotherapy from its network of community hospitals or in people's homes in Powys. People in Powys who are undergoing chemotherapy treatment in Wales currently attend Prince Charles Hospital, in Merthyr Tydfil, or will be treated in Velindre Cancer Centre, in Cardiff.

However, the health board supports the idea of exploring whether chemotherapy can be provided locally as part of its strategy to provide as much care as possible as close to people's homes. The need to undertake a feasibility study of chemotherapy outreach services in Powys has been identified as one of the health board's priorities for 2016-17. It will be included in its integrated medium-term plan for this year.

The health board has also been working closely with Velindre Cancer Centre as part of Velindre NHS Trust's *Transforming Cancer Services* programme. If the integrated medium-term plan is approved, the health board intends to start the work in the first quarter of 2016-17. I have asked my officials to take a direct interest in that work, so that long-held ambitions to provide chemotherapy services in Brecon and Radnorshire can be taken forward.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Assembly library.

Best wishes,
Mark

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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.