



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA - P/VG/2160/19

Russell George AM

7 June 2019

Dear Russell,

Further to health questions on 1 May, I am writing to update you on the provision of pain management services in mid Wales following the closure of the chronic pain service at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt (RJAH) Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in Oswestry.

Powys Teaching Health Board (PtHB) has confirmed that they wrote to all patients transferred to them by RJAH to provide reassurance and advise them of their new treatment arrangements prior to the closure of the chronic pain service in Oswestry on 31 March 2019.

However, it would appear that a small cohort of patients (whom RJAH had previously agreed would remain in their care) did not receive appropriate communication. This included patients whose treatment was soon to be concluded and were due to be discharged back to their GP.

PtHB has made urgent contact with RJAH about these patients and asked them to review the discharges made prior to the 31 March 2019 and to identify any patients that should have been transferred to PtHB rather than being discharged. RJAH has now completed this action. PtHB is now undertaking cross checks to identify if any of the patients in question have subsequently been referred in to the Powys Pain Management Service, in order to avoid confusion/ and or duplicate correspondence. RJAH will then contact any remaining patients to arrange the transfer.

PtHB remain disappointed that RJAH did not contact and transfer all patients as agreed and have apologised for any distress that this has caused to patients. PtHB has also taken steps to recruit additional staff into the Powys pain management service in order to respond to the increase in demand that the closure of the chronic pain service in Oswestry has created.

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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.

I hope you found this information useful.

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

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