



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/VG/2378/19

Dai Lloyd AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

25 June 2019

Dear Dai,

I am writing in response to the issue you raised in Plenary on 21 May regarding the closure of the Cwmllynfell Surgery.

The Amman Tawe Partnership applied to close its branch surgery in Cwmllynfell due to poor conditions of the premises. The practice has identified that the premises are not fit for purpose. Patient engagement is being undertaken to transfer services from the branch in Cwmllynfell Surgery to the neighbouring practices. A request has also been made to merge the two contracts, one held with Swansea Bay University Health Board and one held with Hywel Dda University Health Board to form one GMS contract. This would mean that Swansea Bay UHB would become responsible for the provision of GMS services for all patients. A further review and consideration also needs to be given on the impact on the Upper Valleys Cluster and cross border implications with nearly 40% of the total list residing within Hywel Dda UHB.

You will appreciate that I am unable to intervene or comment on specific issues as the health board is responsible for the health services in the local area, including the provision of primary medical services; in this case Swansea Bay UHB.

In some circumstances, GP practices provide services to a registered population spread across more than one health board area. In such circumstances, the GP practice will hold a contract with the health board within the area the main GP surgery is located. This is normal practice and such arrangements have always existed within the NHS with health boards and their predecessors.

Each health board is responsible for the services provided to their resident population, this requires health boards in such circumstances to communicate and work together with the contracting health board being responsible for management and engagement with the GP practice.

When a contractor applies to a health board to change the service it provides, change the location for service delivery, or other change that impacts on the delivery of service to patients; the application must be made in accordance with the National Health Service

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

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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.

(General Medical Services Contracts) (Wales) Regulations 2004. In the case of an application to close a branch surgery, the contractor is required to consult with the registered patients of the practice and this can be across health board and community health council boundaries.

The responsibility lies with Health Boards to plan how services will be delivered within their boundary. This includes the commissioning and regular review of GP services to ensure the needs of the resident population are met. In the first instance, queries around service provision at a practice should be taken up with the Practice Manager. If you are unhappy with the response received from the practice, you may then wish to write to the Health Board with your concerns. The relevant Health Board contact details are as follows:

Tracey Myhill
Chief Executive, Swansea Bay University Health Board
Baglan Energy Park,
Baglan
Port Talbot,
SA12 7BR

Thank you for raising this issue – I hope you find the information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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