



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-VG-2670-19

Rhun AP Iorwerth AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

18 July 2019

Dear Rhun,

I am responding in English as you explained this is the preferred language of your constituent.

Thank you for your email of the 10 July regarding one of your constituents, who raised concerns relating to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's speech, language and therapy department and the whistleblowing process in general. Which you raise during Health Questions on the 5 June.

Whilst I am unable to comment to an ongoing investigation. I understand is not complete and is currently being considered by the Commissioning Manager at the health board for conclusions and recommendations. I understand that the health board are aiming to conclude this work by the end of August 2019. I am aware that the health board appointed an external investigation officer to provide a report on the complaint, which has been received. However, although the investigation was led by an external organisation, this is in fact an internal investigation and therefore the health board are seeking advice on what information they are able to share.

I am also aware that the Commissioning Manager has written to Ms Clarke in the last few weeks asking if she would prefer to meet to discuss the outcome of the investigation or would prefer to receive this via written communication. Consideration is also being given with the wider group of staff directly involved in the enquiry on how best to communicate with them on this matter.

With regard to the whistleblowing process, I expect every health board and trust in Wales to formally adopt and implement the All Wales Staff Raising Concerns (Whistleblowing) Policy. I also expect all staff to have their concerns considered properly with assurance that they will not suffer any detriment as a result of voicing their concerns.

This policy and its operation are kept under review by the Wales Partnership Forum which contains representatives of the NHS workforce, employers and the government. In addition to the all Wales policy, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's staff who may feel unable

to report concerns through the normal management structure, can raise concerns through safehaven; guidance and contact details for which can be found on their website.

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