



Our ref: WQs 87595 87600 87601 87604

Adam Price MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Adam.Price@senedd.wales

13 March 2023

Dear Adam,

I am writing to respond substantively to the following Written Questions which you recently tabled for answer:

- Will the Minister confirm the dates that the four new non-executive board members of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board were first approached to gauge their interest in serving on the board? (WQ87595)
- Will the Welsh Government confirm who is leading the process to examine concerns referred to in paragraph 21 of the Wales Audit Office report on the Review of Board Effectiveness in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board? (WQ87600)
- Will the Minister confirm whether, in her meeting with them on 27 February 2023, the independent members of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board were asked to resign or be sacked? (WQ87601)
- Will the Welsh Government confirm who is leading the independent investigation referred to in paragraph 12 of the Wales Audit Office Review of Board Effectiveness of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board? (WQ87604)

In view of the concerns expressed in that interim Audit Wales report, early confidential and informal discussions with potential new board members were initiated in the week commencing 6 February 2023. This was part of our standard risk management process, to ensure the continued operation of the health board – e.g. in the event that most or all of the independent board members resigned. This was considered to a significant possibility, in view of the criticism the board was receiving –prior to and including the Audit Wales report.

An Independent Officer - Geraint Evans, a former Executive Director of Workforce and Organisation Development at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, led the process and investigation referred to in paragraph 12 and 21 of the Audit Wales report. Decision making officers are in place to make the appropriate decisions and we have appointed Lisa Gostling, Workforce Director from Hywel Dda University Health Board to provide advice to the Chair of BCUHB in taking forward the appropriate actions once the decision-making process is completed in respect of the Executive Directors of the Board.

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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.

After informing the board of my intention to take special measures with immediate effect, board members were asked to consider their positions. Subsequently, I accepted the resignation of all board members on the 27 February 2023.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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