



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/HID/4509/17

Llyr Gruffydd AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

14 December 2017

Dear Llyr,

During the plenary session on 5 December, you requested a statement regarding Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales' (CSSIW) classification of 14 care homes in Wales as services of concern.

As you will be aware, CSSIW is the independent regulator of social care in Wales, responsible for registering, inspecting and taking action to improve the quality and safety of services for the well-being of people in Wales. As part of this role, CSSIW identifies services as services of concern where it determines that formal enforcement action is necessary.

In its recently published annual report, CSSIW recorded a total of 642 older adult care homes across Wales. Therefore, whilst not wishing to understate the concerns raised by CSSIW within the 14 homes, they represent a small proportion of the total number of adult care homes in Wales and are evidence of CSSIW operating an effective inspection regime. In addition, CSSIW has reported that the proportion of homes classed as a service of concern has not increased compared with previous years.

Along with its inspection of services, CSSIW also relies on concerns being reported by members of the public. To this end, CSSIW work constantly to increase awareness of its role through running conferences, workshops and attending public events, for example the Royal Welsh Show where this year, CSSIW staff spoke to over 400 people.

We are constantly working to improve standards in regulated services, including within care homes. As part of this work, you may be aware that we have recently developed regulations under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 - the Regulated Services (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations. These regulations focus on people's outcomes and well-being and encompass matters which will underpin the quality and safety of services. This includes the governance of the service, the way in which the service is carried on, its staffing, and how it safeguards the people in its care.

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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.

These regulations were passed by the National Assembly for Wales this month and are due to come into force for providers following their re-registration under the new system from April 2018.

You also referred to your previous call to expand the functions of Community Health Councils to encompass social care, rather than abolish them and replace them with a national body. The consultation on the White Paper "Services Fit for the Future" concluded on 29 September. We are currently in the process of considering the large number of responses that have been received.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services and his officials recently met representatives from the Community Health Councils to discuss their response to the consultation and had a very constructive discussion. Amongst the matters discussed, was the need to ensure effective local arrangements and a remit extending to both health and social care.

I hope this provides the reassurance you were seeking.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant  
Minister for Children and Social Care