

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: VG/0326/20

Dr Dai Lloyd  
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

29 September 2020

Dear Dai,

I can confirm that Velindre University NHS Trust has submitted Outline Business Cases to the Welsh Government for the scheme for a new Cancer Hospital. These are presently progressing through scrutiny and formal advice will be provided to me for a decision in due course.

The scheme is one of the three that Welsh Ministers are progressing through the revenue funded Mutual Investment Model. The Northern Meadows site is the Trust's preferred one for the new Cancer Centre which already has outline planning permission.

I am aware that concerns have been raised with regard to the environmental impact and to the clinical model. I cannot comment on these points at the current time because that could prejudice the advice I am due to receive in the coming months on the scheme itself.

Also, as is the case with all proposed service changes, the Welsh Ministers cannot comment on what is being proposed by the Trust. Community Health Councils have the ability to refer service change matters to the Welsh Ministers on a number of grounds, including if they are of the view a change is not in the interests of the health service. Welsh Ministers may then make a decision on the matter. Consequently, Welsh Ministers have to ensure we do not comment on proposals for service change in case such a referral is made.

What I can say at this time is that the concerns raised about the clinical model will be fully considered in the advice I receive when I am asked to consider the final version of the Outline Business Case. The Chief Medical Officer has also asked Velindre NHS Trust to seek independent advice on its proposed clinical model and also to re-engage with the clinical community on the regional model.

Velindre has appointed the Nuffield Trust to provide it with independent clinical advice, which will consider the concerns raised and practice across the UK. This advice will form part of the final submission that is made to the Welsh Government for consideration, when asked to approve the Business Case.

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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.

In association with the Business Case development, a range of other activities are also ongoing including planning requirements linked to the project. These are subject to local determination by Cardiff Council Planning committee and subject to the possibility of a Welsh Government call-in. As such, it is not appropriate to offer comment on this process as to do so could prejudice the Welsh Ministers position should the matter come before them at a later date.

Nonetheless, I understand the nature of the concerns being raised but I cannot comment on them as I may be required to make a determination on the proposals in the future.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**

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