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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board

Ein cyf/Our ref: CH.1909.1018
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Chairman's Office
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Dyddiad/Date: 19 October, 2018

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Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad Ystwyth
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant,
Heol Ffynnon Job, Caerfyrddin,
Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3BB

David J Rowlands AC/AM
Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Petitions Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Email: SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

Dear Mr Rowlands

Re: Plenary discussion on the Petitions' Committee's referral (Withybush petition)

I write in conjunction with the above to both apologise and offer clarification for an unfortunate misunderstanding which has occurred regarding this matter. It has been brought to my attention that it appears from the transcript of the discussion on the 'Pembrokeshire says NO!! To the closure of Withybush A&E!' there was one point regarding the date of the Board meeting which caused some confusion.

The information which the Health Board provided to the NHS Confederation for submission to Assembly Members in readiness for the Plenary discussion on the Withybush petition, clearly states on page 6 that the report on the work undertaken on Transforming Clinical Services and a number of recommendations for consideration, would be presented at the Extraordinary Public Board meeting on Wednesday 26th September 2018. This is reiterated on the final page of the submission where it states that "There will be an Extraordinary Board meeting on Wednesday, 26th September 2018 for the Health Board to consider".

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Cadeirydd / Chair
Mrs Bernardine Rees OBE

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive
Mr Steve Moore

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Hywel Dda
Hywel Dda University Health Board is the operational name of Hywel Dda University Local Health Board

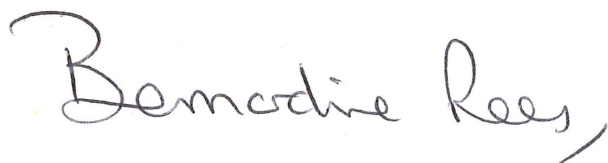
Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yn amgylchedd di-fwg Hywel Dda University Health Board operates a smoke free environment

The transcript from the Plenary discussion, however, makes two references to Transforming Clinical Services being discussed at Board on the 27th September. The first instance is in the introduction to the item where it is recorded "So, the committee could agree to consider the petition again following the imminent debate on this petition and the Health Board meeting on 27th September". This indeed was the date originally given for the Board meeting to discuss Transforming Clinical Services, in Steve Moore's (CEO) letter of the 30th July to Chair of the Petitions Committee. The second instance is at the end of the discussion where the clerk is quoted as stating "I think one thing we might want to note is that I think it was unfortunate that, in Hywel Dda health board's letter to the committee, it stated that the public board meeting was on 27 September, when in fact, the meeting to discuss these proposals is on 26 September, which is the same day as the debate". What happened in the intervening period was that in order to accommodate the discussion required on such a significant matter and to webcast the meeting live, the decision was taken to hold a separate extraordinary Board meeting, dedicated to Transforming Clinical Services, on the Wednesday, 26th September, i.e. a day prior to the scheduled Board meeting on the Thursday 27th September.

Any reference to the Health Board meeting on the 27th September is quite correct as there was a scheduled meeting of the Board on that day. However, to put this in context of the Board meeting to discuss Transforming Clinical Services is not a correct reflection of the situation as the paper submitted by the NHS Confederation is quite clear in referring to this date as the 26th September.

This is a matter I feel, as Chair of Hywel Dda UHB, in the interests of openness and transparency which I need to clarify with you in order to avoid any misunderstanding of the position and again I offer my sincere apologies for this confusion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernardine Rees". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bernardine Rees (OBE)
Chair