



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/01687/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member
National Assembly for Wales
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20 April 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 March on behalf of the Petition Committee regarding the closure of Troed y Bryn and Lansbury GP Surgeries.

Although I nor my officials are able to intervene directly in this matter, we do appreciate this is an unsettling time for those patients affected by the closures. When an independent GP contractor decides to terminate its contract with a health board, that health board has a responsibility to ensure the on-going provision of high quality primary care services for those patients affected by the closure.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board have plans to move patients to neighbouring practices. A letter has been issued from the Health Board and the changes will be in place by 1 May 2020.

Wales, along with other parts of the UK, has needed to deal with GP recruitment issues. In 2016, I launched a national campaign to promote medical careers in Wales; "This is Wales: Train, Work, Live". The campaign supports the recruitment activities undertaken by health boards, trusts and GP practices.

As part of the campaign two incentives have been available. The first incentive of £20,000 is offered to GP trainees who take up a training place in a specified hard to recruit area. The incentive is paid if the GP trainee commits to remain in a targeted area for one year of practice after qualification. A second incentive, available to all GP trainees, is a one off payment of £2,000 to cover the final GP trainee examination costs.

The campaign, along with the financial incentives are helping to increase the number of doctors choosing Wales to complete their GP training.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Gething".

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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