

P-04-479 Tywyn X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition –
Correspondence from Petitioner to Committee, 24.04.18

Kathryn Thomas ,
Deputy Clerk,
The Petition's Committee ,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

South Meirionnydd Older People's Forum
Sunnyside, Corbett Avenue, Tywyn,
LL36 0DF, Gwynedd.
Secretary; George Buckley


24th April 2018

Closed Petition: P-04-479 Tywyn X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition.

Dear Kathryn, Thank you for your e.mail on the 18th of April 2018 informing us of the response from Betsi Cawaladr UHB to the questions raised regarding the Tywyn Hospital Minor Injuries Unit by the Petition's Committee during the Petition's Committee Meeting on the 13th of March 2018. We are pleased to give our views of the response received from the Health Board to be included in the discussion of the response at the next meeting of the Petition's Committee on the 1st of May 2018.

We are pleased to learn that the Health Board have not wavered in it's commitment to extend the opening hours of the Minor Injuries Unit at Tywyn to include the weekends from April to September and we are pleased to be informed that, following a successful recruitment of staff, this has been already initiated from the beginning of April this year. We appreciate that the provision of the Minor Injuries service is totally dependent on the availability of suitably qualified staff. We voiced our fears of the possible outcome of future staff shortages when the strategy of Changes to Community Services was proposed in 2012 with a view to curtailing Services at rural Community Hospitals in favour of designated Hub Hospitals serving a wider area. We also voiced our fears that the staff shortages would lead to a lack of availability of the Services which would ultimately lead to their decline. However Betsi Cadwaladr UHB have stated, in this latest correspondence, that they are very mindful of the local concern regarding this issue and, in relation to the future of the Minor Injuries Unit, we find this statement somewhat reassuring.

We kindly accept the apologies from the Health Board for their lack of response to letters of concern written by the South Meirionnydd Older People's Forum in August and November 2017 regarding the lack of provision of Minor Injuries Services at Tywyn Hospital ,during the weekends, from April to September. When making enquiries at Tywyn Hospital as to the status of the extension of Minor Injuries Services last year we were advised to contact Kathryn Cummings the Health Board Communications Officer who was handling the case. We are pleased to accept the assurance from the Health Board that future correspondence will not be overlooked. We feel that, within their response, the Health Board have now provided enough evidence of their commitment to provide and maintain a Minor Injuries Service which will be extended when the demand for the service may be at it's highest and we are satisfied in that case that our concerns have been sufficiently addressed. Finally the South Meirionnydd Older People's Forum would like to offer our thanks for and appreciation of the help that you have provided to us in contacting the Health Board once again in our interests even though the original Petition was closed. We feel that the response that was gained through the intervention of the Petition's Committee may not have been forthcoming without it. We greatly value the work that you have undertaken on our behalf .

With the Most Kind Regards, Miss Jennifer Windsor
(on behalf of the South Meirionnydd Older People's Forum)