

Letter from Ann Lloyd, Chief Executive NHS Wales to Andy Williams, Chief Executive of Powys LHB raising concerns about the Board's meeting of 27th September, 2006

20th November, 2006

Mr Andy Williams,
Chief Executive Powys LHB
Mansion House,
Bronllys,
Powys, LD3 0LS.

LHB Board meeting procedures and service changes

I am writing to raise my concerns in respect of two correspondence chains relating to Powys LHB, which have been sent to the Assembly recently as follows:

LHB Board meeting procedures

Two of your local AMs have raised issues with the Minister about the conduct of your LHB Board meeting in public at the end of September 2006.

The first of these queries relates to one of your own consultant clinician's contentions that, if implemented, your proposals to close inpatient facilities at 4 community hospitals would have a devastating effect on staff morale and result in the migration of staff out of Powys. What discussions/consultations have you had with staff about these proposals? How are you intending to manage the staffing issues as you go forward with developing your implementation plan? What are your views and what reassurances can you give me that the pessimism expressed by your consultant is unfounded?

The second of these queries relates to whether due process was followed in reaching a decision at that Board meeting. The attached letter to the Minister sets out the concerns, which it would appear you have been unable to satisfactorily answer (although I haven't seen the other correspondence alluded to in this letter). I require a full explanation of the events in question and categorical reassurances that there is no breach of your LHB's standing orders.

Service changes at Knighton Hospital

I am attaching a series of correspondence items for which I require a detailed explanation of the processes which have been followed. My perception is that having made service changes in the early part of the year you indicated in a public meeting that you were sorry these had not been discussed and the LHB wouldn't act in this way again. You even reassured the Regional Office that you would ensure that in future in similar circumstances discussions would take place with the relevant parties accepting of course that the change might well still need to take place due to service delivery requirements. I was surprised therefore to have sight of the last letter which

seems to indicate that yet again a service change has been implemented without any reference to the stakeholders who had previously raised this issue.

I look forward to receiving your response to these issues by 4th December 2006.

Yours sincerely

Mrs ANN LLOYD
Head, Department for Health & Social Services
Chief Executive, NHS Wales
Pennaeth, Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Prif Weithredwraig, GIG Cymru

Cc Graham Williams