

Response from Kirsty Williams AM.

Builth Hospital Casualty Closure (10/11/06)

13 November 2006

Welsh Liberal Democrat AM for Brecon and Radnorshire, Kirsty Williams, has expressed her outrage at the closure on Friday evening of the minor injuries unit at Builth Wells hospital.

The decision was made by the Local Health Board (LHB) with no warning or consultation, leaving local residents potentially vulnerable.

Ms Williams said: "I was absolutely shocked when I heard the news. The Local Health Board has already alienated so many with its disregard for the opinions of local people in relation to hospital reconfiguration, it is completely unbelievable that it could just go ahead and close services with no warning."

"Where hospitals are sited, and what services they offer, should be decided on the basis of clinical need. Removal of existing services should only be contemplated after widespread consultation with local people. I have spoken to the Chairman this morning, but he was unable to provide me with an adequate answer as to why this service was closed, or to respond to my questions about staffing levels at other hospitals. The actions of the LHB leave me extremely concerned about the future of healthcare provision in Powys and the ability of the Chairman and the Chief Executive to manage an effective organisation".

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