



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
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Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

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**Maria Battle
Chair**

30 October 2018

Mr David Rowlands AM
Chair Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Rowlands

Petition P-05-830 Reopen St David's Medical Centre, Pentwyn Full Time

Thank you for your letter of 4 October in relation to St David Medical Centre, Pentwyn. The Health Board has had a number of discussions with Dr Sally Davies and partners, as well as the Community Health Council (CHC), about the request for closure. There have also been discussions and correspondence with local councillors and Assembly Members.

I thought it would be helpful to provide you with some background information. The practice currently operates from two sites, Pontprennau and the St David Medical Centre in Pentwyn. The distance between the two surgeries is just over 1 mile and there are regular buses. Under the General Medical Services' regulations, the practice is responsible for providing suitable premises for delivery of services to patients and for meeting the needs of these patients. The building in Pentwyn is owned by two former partners of the practice, therefore the current partners are tenants and a lease arrangement is required. The current partners own the Pontprennau building.

In May 2018, the practice reduced the opening hours at St David Medical Centre, Pentwyn. The Health Board was provided with assurance that patients would not be affected by these changes, as provision was available from the Pontprennau site and patients were already attending the Pontprennau site for some services.

A formal application to close the branch surgery was received by the Health Board on 16 July 2017, setting in motion the Health Board's formal process to consider such requests. The Health Board met again with the partners and the CHC on 8 August. At this meeting it was agreed that a patient meeting would be held in early September - this would be chaired by the CHC and would provide an opportunity for the partners to discuss issues directly with the patients.

The patient meeting was held on 18 September and the GMS Panel (which is the decision making panel within the Health Board) was postponed to enable the practice and the CHC to consider the issues raised by patients and to provide information to the Health Board to consider as part of the decision making process.

The practice has been allocated improvement grant funding to develop the Pontprennau site and this work has been underway for a number of months. The request for funding was considered positively by the Health Board, particularly in light of the number of additional homes being proposed in the local development plan for this area (North East Cardiff and East of Pontprennau link road expected to have an additional 4500 and 1300 homes respectively). The business case for the improvement work included the provision of extra capacity for an additional 8,000 patients. The Health Board has considered the need for the provision of services to meet the anticipated additional growth – some of which will be provided through the capacity at Pontprennau, as well as from other practices in the surrounding area.

The GMS Panel met on 23 October to consider the request for closure of St David Medical Centre. In considering all the available information, the decision was not to uphold the application to close. However, the panel agreed that support should be provided to enable the practice to fulfil its intention to remain at Pentwyn. Therefore, the Health Board will offering negotiation support and advice from senior staff and specialist estates expertise, to help reach a satisfactory conclusion in relation to the lease arrangements. It was also felt there should be a timeframe within which to conclude this and three months was considered to be appropriate. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached in relation to the lease arrangements, the Health Board will work with the practice to explore whether alternative premises are available in Pentwyn.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Maria Battle
Chair