

Mick Antoniw

Aelod Cynulliad dros Pontypridd

Assembly Member for Pontypridd

Vaughan Gething AM
Minister for Health and Social Care
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

30th January 2020

Dear Minister,

You will be aware that earlier today, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board confirmed their intention to review A&E provision at the Royal Glamorgan hospital in our constituency.

We have received hundreds of messages from local people who are extremely concerned about this proposal. It is a concern that we absolutely share.

The Health Board's proposal is predicated on the South Wales Programme document, which is now six years old. It does not reflect today's local healthcare pressures, nor does it reflect the considerable expansion in housing and the resulting population growth in the immediate area. We therefore ask you to urgently intervene in this matter in order to ensure that a full review of the South Wales Programme is undertaken before any changes to A&E provision at the Royal Glamorgan is considered.

It is also critical that short-term action is undertaken to elevate the immediate pressure on A&E services at the Royal Glamorgan. In particular there needs to be a renewed and sustained effort to recruit staff. Whilst we recognise that the recruitment of consultants and doctors is a UK-wide challenge, every effort must be made to attract good quality staff, which means offering permanent positions rather than an apparent reliance temporary or fixed-term contracts.

Whilst we recognise that the Health Board's proposal is clinician-led, and is not about money, we are extremely concerned that the review is fundamentally flawed at the outset. We would be grateful for your urgent and full consideration of our request.

Your sincerely



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