

Bay Watch

6 May 2008



About Bay Watch

Bay Watch is a weekly political briefing for Welsh NHS Confederation members that is focused on health issues and policies being discussed and debated in the National Assembly for Wales.

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Last week at the Assembly

Health Minister's Questions

Chris Franks (South Wales Central, Plaid Cymru) called for a new health centre to be built in the Cynon Valley. The First Minister said that the LHB was in discussions about a piece of land and that the new health centre remains a priority.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central, Conservative) asked about reducing the clerical burden on nursing staff. The First Minister explained that Edwina Hart has set up a working group on the issue of record-keeping.

Liberal Democrat leader, Michael German, queried the payment system for cross-border health services. Rhodri Morgan said Trusts in England should lobby MPs if they are unhappy with the payments they are receiving.

Read the transcript here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=83340&ds=4/2008#rhif1>

Health Committee transcripts

The transcript from the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's scrutiny session with the

Health Minister is now available online. Among the topics discussed were the possible restructuring of the NHS, improving hospital food and cleanliness, safety of NHS staff and hospital car parking charges. Read the full transcript on this link: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=82452&ds=5/2008#rhif2>

The transcript has also been published for the session in which the Welsh NHS Confederation gave evidence to the committee for its inquiry into the restructuring proposals. The Confed's Director, Mike Ponton, and Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Jonathan Davies gave evidence, which can be read here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=83264&ds=5/2008>

Citizen governance debate

Andrew Davies, Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, outlined the government's "*seven governance principles*" to engage more with the public in the delivery of services. Mark Isherwood (North Wales, Conservatives) accused WAG of a "*track record of sham consultations, which ride roughshod over public opinion.*"

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central, Liberal Democrats) called for more power to be devolved to local government, accusing the Labour-Plaid coalition of adopting a “centralising, top-down approach.”

Read the transcript of the debate here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=83340&ds=4/2008#rhif5>

LHB restructuring

In questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, AMs discussed the need for LHBs to maintain close links with Local Authorities. In response, Brian Gibbons said: “*The development of a new sense of localism has been at the core of many of the discussions I have had with the Minister for Health and Social Services.*”

Read the full transcript of the discussion here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=83578&ds=4/2008#a3>

This week at the Assembly

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

In Wednesday’s plenary session, Edwina Hart will answer questions on:

- Contribution by co-responders in responding to 999 calls
- Priorities for the NHS in the next 6 months
- Promoting interests of older people
- Role of well-person clinics
- Support for hospices
- Night-time ambulance service provision in Neath Port Talbot
- Cross border funding
- Helping people with chronic conditions
- Importance of LHBs to the health service in Wales
- Proposed restructuring of LHBs
- Improving working conditions for NHS staff
- Preventing strokes
- Reducing incidence of catheter associated urinary tract infections
- Funding for cardiac rehabilitation
- Enhancing basic hygiene in hospitals

Read the questions in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=82682&ds=5/2008>

Also on Wednesday, AMs will hold a short debate on Lymphoedema and the need for an improved service.

NHS Redress Measure

In Tuesday’s plenary session, AMs will debate and vote on the NHS Redress Measure before it can be passed to Parliament for final consideration.

Read more information about the measure here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-leg-measures/bus-legislative-meas-nhsrrev/bus-legislation-meas-nhsr-stage3.htm>

First Minister's Questions

In this week's question time, the First Minister will be asked to make a statement on pay in the NHS.

Read the list of questions in full here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=82506&ds=5/2008>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The Committee's meeting on Wednesday will be health in Merthyr. They will be hearing evidence from Welsh Kidney Patients Association, followed by a public "open mic" session. The Committee says that it has arranged this open meeting so that it can find out the views of as many people in Wales as possible. To see the agenda in full, use the link below:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=83459&ds=5/2008>

Mental Health Services LCO Committee

In its Tuesday meeting, the committee will be hearing from the Minister for Health and Social Services. See the full agenda here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-legislation-lco-2008-8/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas-4.htm>

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About the Welsh NHS Confederation

The Welsh NHS Confederation represents the organisations making up the NHS in Wales: trusts and local health boards. We act as an independent voice in the drive for better health and better healthcare through our policy and influencing work, and by supporting members with events, information and training. To find out more about us go to -

www.welshconfed.org