

Bay Watch

8 July 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.

If you have any queries about this publication, please contact jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org

Last week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

Liberal Democrat health spokesperson, Jenny Randerson, said that the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust's debts were hampering their ability to meet targets. She asked the First Minister if he would reconsider the payback period for the Trust, to which the Minister responded by saying it would be *"unfair"* to do so, adding that he wouldn't want to encourage a system of writing off debts.

Welsh Conservatives' health spokesperson, Jonathan Morgan, asked the First Minister about the cost of restructuring the NHS. Rhodri Morgan said that the new bodies *"would not in themselves result in any additional costs."*

Read the discussion in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=91292&ds=7/2008#rhif1>

Palliative care

Edwina Hart outlined the findings of a review into palliative care, which she said revealed *"the patchy nature of provision across Wales"*. Ms Hart described recommendations of the review which called for more clarity in what services fall under the NHS and

what services *"would be more appropriately funded"* by the voluntary sector, adding that health bodies should develop better relationships with their voluntary sector partners.

Read the statement and the following discussion here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=91292&ds=7/2008#rhif3>

60 years of the NHS

In a debate to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the NHS, Plaid Cymru and Llanelli AM, Helen Mary Jones, said that the Welsh policy to move the health service away from a market-driven agenda to a patient-focused one returned the NHS to its *"core value base in socialism"*. She argued that Wales could look forward to a *"bright future for the NHS"*.

Health Minister, Edwina Hart, said that the NHS had brought freedom to the people of Wales and had become *"the cornerstone of our society."*

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=91468&ds=7/2008#rhif9>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee

The Committee has collated responses received to its inquiry into presumed consent for organ donation.

Click below for an analysis of written consultation responses:

<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=90737&ds=7/2008>

And here for an evaluation of public questionnaires:

<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=90711&ds=7/2008>

This week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

The First Minister will answer questions on:

- plans to mark the 60th anniversary of the NHS
- public service delivery in rural Wales
- ambulance response times in Powys
- care for the elderly in nursing homes
- health investment in mid and west Wales.

Read the full list of questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=90068&ds=7/2008>

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

The Minister will answer questions on:

- improving emergency care
- single sex hospital wards
- support for stroke patients
- health spending
- neonatal care

- LHB budgets
- social services for children
- spreading best practice
- availability of wheelchair assessors
- deep brain stimulation
- malnutrition amongst older people
- future of community hospitals
- supporting carers
- uptake of direct payments for social services
- representing patients' views in the health service.

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=90298&ds=7/2008>

Conservative debates

In a Welsh Conservatives Debate, AMs will discuss the health and social implications of alcohol abuse in young people.

Also on Wednesday, AMs will debate care for people with dementia. The Conservatives will call on the Welsh Assembly Government to increase the number of specialist nurses for patients with dementia.

More details in Wednesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=91389&ds=7/2008>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee

The committee will continue its inquiry into Local Service Boards and will hear evidence from Michael Trickey and Carys Evans from the Welsh Assembly Government.

See more details in Thursday's agenda:

<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=91501&ds=7/2008>

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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