

# Bay Watch

27 October 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](mailto:jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org)

## Last week at the Assembly

### First Minister's Questions

#### *Welsh Ambulance Service*

The First Minister said that he and Edwina Hart were disappointed with the "considerable variation" in response times. In response to a question on funding for a vehicle location system, the First Minister said he was not aware of an application from the Trust. He added that he has "every confidence" that the Trust can deliver the improvements that Edwina Hart has asked for by December.

#### *Infertility treatment*

The First Minister confirmed there are no plans to increase the current NHS funded level of one cycle of IVF.

Read the full transcript of First Minister's questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=102388&ds=10/2008#rhif1>

For the First Minister's written answer on waiting times for counselling, psychotherapy and cognitive behavioural therapy, click here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=102452&ds=10/2008>

### One Wales debate

In a debate on the implementation of the One Wales programme, Conservative health spokesperson, Jonathan Morgan, questioned the government's aim of eliminating the use of private sector hospitals. He claimed that the NHS still needs the extra capacity and said that the aim would not realistically be achieved.

Liberal Democrat health spokesperson, Jenny Randerson, raised fears that the new structure would not allow organisations the freedom to solve their own problems without ministerial intervention. She also questioned the progress made on pilot health and wellbeing centres and highlighted concerns raised by NHS Directors of Finance about the financial settlement for 2009/10.

Read the full transcript of the debate here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=102388&ds=10/2008#rhif5>

### Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee

The transcript is now available for the health committee's scrutiny of the draft budget, which includes a session with the Minister for Health and Social Services

During the debate, the Minister said: *"The NHS always believes that it cannot reach its targets, and finance directors always make claims for further money in respect of any budget that is settled upon them... Last year, we had similar concerns and groans about whether it would manage, and the whole NHS budget balanced last year. It is important to remember that."*

Read the full transcript 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=102142&ds=11/2008#4](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=102142&ds=11/2008#4)

## **Written answers**

Written answers to questions on the following topics have been published online.

Schools HPV vaccine programme:

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-  
chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?a  
ct=dis&id=102432&ds=10/2008#4](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=102432&ds=10/2008#4)

The cost of the low secure mental health inpatient service at Whitchurch Hospital:

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-  
chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?a  
ct=dis&id=102444&ds=10/2008#3](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=102444&ds=10/2008#3)

*There is no business to report for next week due to half term recess.*

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**  
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Unit 3  
Waterton Park  
Bridgend  
CF31 3PH

Tel 0845 33 00 499  
E-mail [info@welshconfed.org](mailto:info@welshconfed.org)

## 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](http://www.welshconfed.org)