

Bay Watch

19 January 2009



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

Asthma

The First Minister commended the work of practice nurses, who he said had helped to transform services for asthma patients over the past 20-30 years. He added that Local Health Boards must prioritise prevention of asthma amongst children.

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=111478&ds=1/2009#3>

The First Minister issued a written response to a question on ambulance services, which can be found here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=111457&ds=1/2009>

Hepatitis C Action Plan

Jenny Randerson issued a Statement of Opinion in which she calls on the government to "end five years of waiting" and develop a Blood Borne Viral Hepatitis Action Plan "without delay." Read the statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-state-opinion.htm?act=dis&id=111570&ds=1/2009>

This Week at the Assembly

European and External Affairs Committee

The committee will discuss the terms of reference for an inquiry into patients' rights to access cross border healthcare. A scoping paper outlines the background to the current situation across Europe and the relevance to Wales, especially in light of the House of Lords inquiry into the same issue. The Welsh NHS Confederation is among the list of potential witnesses to give evidence.

Read the scoping paper in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-eur-home/bus-committees-third-eur-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=111767&ds=2/2009>

See the agenda for Tuesday's meeting here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-eur-home/bus-committees-third-eur-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=110256&ds=2/2009>

First Minister's Questions

The First Minister will be asked to comment on the development of dialysis treatment facilities across Wales.

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=110244&ds=1/2009>

Substance Misuse Strategy

In Tuesday's plenary session, AMs will debate the progress made by the government in implementing its Substance Misuse Strategy.

Read the strategy on the following link:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/publications/strategy0818/?lang=en>

A plenary briefing for AMs is also available here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/09-005.pdf>

Audit Committee

In their meeting on Wednesday, Audit Committee members will discuss the Assembly Government's response to the committee's report on the Ambulance Service.

The government's response is available here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-ac-home/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=111555&ds=1/2009>

The Auditor General for Wales, Jeremy Colman, has issued further advice to the Committee on its review of the ambulance service, which can be read here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-ac-home/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=111591&ds=1/2009>

The committee will also consider its draft report on NHS Financial Management during its meeting on Wednesday.

See the agenda in full here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-ac-home/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=109546&ds=1/2009>

NHS Estates

Welsh Liberal Democrat health spokesperson, Peter Black, has proposed a debate in Wednesday's plenary on the importance of fit-for-purpose hospital buildings. He will call upon the government to produce an action plan to *"bring the NHS estate up to standard"*.

See more details in Wednesday's agenda:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=111577&ds=1/2009>

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**
CONFFEDERASIWN GIG CYMRU



Unit 3
Waterton Park
Bridgend
CF31 3PH

Tel 0845 33 00 499
E-mail 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