

# Bay Watch

23 February 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.

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## Last Week at the Assembly

### Financial management report

The Audit Committee published its report "Are the devolved financial management arrangements in NHS Wales effective?" The report concludes that:

- The overall effectiveness of financial management across NHS Wales needs to be improved, although the financial position at the end of 2007-08 is an improvement in comparison with previous years.
- The robustness of financial forecasting has improved since the Auditor General's previous report in 2006.
- The prospect of further structural change within the NHS presents both a threat and an opportunity. Reorganisation risks introducing instability in the short term but represents a great opportunity to ensure that financial leadership is of the highest calibre.

Read the report in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7377-e.pdf>

### Press releases issued

Money for new equipment for the ambulance

service

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/2960094/?lang=en>

## This Week at the Assembly

### Cross-border healthcare

Welsh NHS Confederation Director, Mike Ponton, will give evidence to the European and External Affairs Committee on Tuesday, as part of their inquiry into a proposed EU Directive on patients' rights in cross border healthcare. The inquiry aims to review the potential implications of the directive for NHS Wales.

Read the Welsh NHS Confederation's written evidence to the European and External Affairs Committee 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=117295&ds=2/2009>

See the webpages of the NHS Confederation's European Office on the EU Directive:

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/euunit/euunit-3874.cfm>

More information on the background to the committee's inquiry is available here: [http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-eur-home/eur\\_inquiries/nafw\\_eur\\_3\\_\\_x-border-patient-rights.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-eur-home/eur_inquiries/nafw_eur_3__x-border-patient-rights.htm)

### Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee continues its inquiry into community mental health services, hearing evidence from Hafal and Mind Cymru in its Thursday meeting.

The committee will also discuss an update report from the Welsh Assembly Government on the implementation of recommendations made by the former Health and Social Services Committee as part of its inquiry into the Interface between Health and Social Care.

Read the update report 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=117668&ds=2/2009>

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee will receive a briefing from Auditor General, Jeremy Colman and Gillian Body from the Wales Audit Office, on the recent WAO report into violence and aggression against NHS staff.

Read the Audit Office report here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gen-ld7395-e.pdf>

In a private session, the committee will discuss the draft of its forthcoming report, "Management of Chronic Conditions in Wales".

See more details in Wednesday's agenda: <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=117317&ds=2/2009>

### First Minister's Questions

The First Minister will be asked to comment on health services in Welsh prisons and respite care for the elderly and mentally infirm.

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=116385&ds=3/2009>

### Welsh Language

In Tuesday's plenary session, the Deputy Minister for Social Services will make a statement on the Welsh Language in the Health & Social Services Task Group.

See Tuesday's agenda in full here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=117196&ds=2/2009>

### Epilepsy Debate

Paul Davies (Conservative, Preseli Pembrokeshire) has proposed a short debate during Wednesday's plenary session on the future of epilepsy services in Wales.

See Wednesday's full agenda here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=117402&ds=2/2009>

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