

# Bay Watch

17 March 2008



## About Bay Watch

*Bay Watch* is a new 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

### First Minister's Questions

Conservative Health Spokesperson, Jonathan Morgan, asked if the government would provide help for Trusts to police hospital car parks when fees are abolished. He argued that the lost revenue would put some Trusts at a particular disadvantage. Rhodri Morgan responded by saying that negotiations are ongoing between Edwina Hart, her team and the Trusts.

Read the discussion in full here (scroll down to question 13):

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=78741&ds=3/2008#rhif1>

### North Wales Community Services

Health Minister, Edwina Hart, delivered a statement on Dr Chris Jones's review of community services in North Wales. Ms Hart summarised the findings of the report, which was widely welcomed by the AMs, and outlined some of the recommendations that are to be taken forward by NHS organisations and WAG. The Health Minister took questions from AMs, who raised concerns on the decline in the number of district nurses, the financial viability of some community services and the insufficient number of nursing care beds.

Read the discussion in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=78741&ds=3/2008#rhif3>

### Workforce Report

The Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee has published the report of its inquiry into Workforce Planning in the health service and social care.

Read the report in full here:

[http://www.assemblywales.org/hwlg\\_ymchwiliad\\_i\\_gynllunio\\_gweithlu\\_yn\\_y\\_gwasanaeth\\_lechyd\\_ac\\_ym\\_maes\\_gofal\\_cymdeithasol\\_adroddiad-e.pdf](http://www.assemblywales.org/hwlg_ymchwiliad_i_gynllunio_gweithlu_yn_y_gwasanaeth_lechyd_ac_ym_maes_gofal_cymdeithasol_adroddiad-e.pdf)

### NHS Dentistry debate

The Liberal Democrats expressed disappointment with the way the contract was set up, arguing that fewer people can access NHS Dentistry as a result. They called for a separate contract for Wales with a greater focus on preventative care.

Val Lloyd (Swansea East, Labour) recognised that the new contract had "led to problems" but claimed that there is "no doubt" the contract has improved access to NHS dental services. Edwina Hart acknowledged that "the contract is not working as well as it could be" and explained that a review is already underway, which will address many of the points raised.

Read the transcript of the debate here (scroll down to page 101):

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop/rop20080312qv.pdf?langoption=3&tll=The%20Record%20%28PDF%2C%20899kb%29>

## Written Questions to the Health Minister

Answers to written questions to the Health Minister have been published. Use the links below to access information on the following issues:

**5 March – access to psychological therapies, GP “well notes”, NICE guidelines for Age Related Macular Degeneration:**

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=79039&ds=3/2008#rhif1>

**6 March – funding for respiratory conditions, timescale for the review of neurosurgery services, health regulatory bodies, patient engagement:**

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=79042&ds=3/2008#rhif4>

**10 March – plans for employment advisors in GP surgeries, bowel cancer screening programme, abuse of the elderly, newly qualified NHS dentists:**

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=79058&ds=3/2008#rhif4>

**11 March – number of carers over 60 years of age, interventions to treat obese people:**

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=79090&ds=3/2008#rhif2>

**12 March – well-being centres, hospital cleanliness, GP “well notes”:**

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=79094&ds=3/2008#rhif3>

## Statement of Opinion

A written statement of opinion on “Supporting People with Familial Hypercholesterolaemia” has been tabled. The statement welcomes nurse-led pilots in Bro Morgannwg and Cardiff and Vale NHS Trusts and calls for a screening service for better detection of the condition.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-state-opinion.htm?act=dis&id=78215&ds=3/2008>

## Dame Gillian Morgan

Read the written statement from First Minister Rhodri Morgan welcoming current UK Confederation Chief Executive, Dame Gillian Morgan, to the role of Permanent Secretary:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-written-min-state.htm?act=dis&id=76738&ds=2/2008>

***There is no future business to report due to the Easter Recess. Bay Watch will resume on 7 April 2008***

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**  
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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)