

Bay Watch

8 February 2010



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

Questions to the First Minister

The First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM responded to questions on the following topics in Plenary:

PFI

The First Minister stated that, *"PFI is now widely regarded as outmoded. There are opportunities for exploring other financing models, but we know that there have been great difficulties with PFI in the past, mainly to do with value for money."*

NHS use of resources

During a reply to a question on use of NHS resources the First Minister said, *"NHS organisations have significant budgets to deliver their services and must live within their means. It is for individual organisations to ensure that money is spent efficiently and effectively. Our national efficiency and productivity programme aims to ensure that organisations make the best use of their resources."*

The Ambulance service

A question was tabled regarding ambulance response times. In response the First Minister said, *"If you look across Wales, there has been substantial improvement over the course of the last few months. We want to ensure that that improvement continues."*

View the record of proceedings here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=165036&ds=2/2010>

Written Questions

The following health related questions were submitted for written answer last week:

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): What estimate has the Welsh Assembly Government made of the numbers of patients resident in Wales who a) have used in each of the last 5 years and b) currently use acute hospital services in England. (WAQ55473)

Alun Cairns (South Wales West): How many Da Vinci machines are used in the NHS in Wales in the latest form of keyhole surgery. (WAQ55475)

Alun Cairns (South Wales West): What plans does the Minister have to support the use of Da Vinci machines in the NHS in Wales. (WAQ55476)

Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales): Will the Minister provide details of the total number of NHS patients treated in the private sector in each of the last five years. (WAQ55450)

Nick Bourne (Mid & West Wales): Will the Minister provide details of the total amount paid by NHS Wales to organisations and businesses in the private sector in each of the last five years. (WAQ55451)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What winter weather plans do Local Health Boards have for dealing with heavy snow and ice on car parks and public walkways on the NHS estate. (WAQ55457)

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How much is currently being spent on equipment to clear and grit car parks and public walkways on the NHS estate. (WAQ55458)

View the answers given to these questions here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm>

Physical Activity Action plan

In plenary on Tuesday there was a debate on the Physical Activity Action Plan. This strategy recognises that physical activity and sport are beneficial to health and that a partnership across the Welsh Assembly Government, Local Authorities, the NHS, the Third Sector and our communities is essential for the future.

View the record of proceeding for this debate:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=165036&ds=2/2010#cynllun>

This week at the Assembly

Business this week

To see a complete list of all business being undertaken in the National Assembly this week click here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-notice.htm>

First Minister's Questions

The First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM will be asked to respond to the following health related questions:

Gareth Jones (Aberconwy): Will the First Minister make a statement on the Holtham Commission's recommendations. OAQ(3)2630(FM)

Leanne Wood (South Wales Central): What recent discussions has the First Minister had regarding UK public sector cuts. OAQ(3)2633(FM)

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire): Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for health care in West Wales OAQ(3)2619(FM)

Read all of the tabled questions here -
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=163667&ds=2/2010>

Legislation Committee No. 5 - Proposed Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure

On Wednesday 10th February this committee will proceed with its first evidence session - The purpose of this proposed measure is to enable the National Assembly to legislate to introduce a new requirement on the NHS and Local Authorities in Wales to work in partnership to prepare, publish and implement a joint strategy in relation to carers.

To find out more about the work of this committee click here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-perm-leg.htm>

Debate on the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's Report on its Inquiry into the Use and Regulation of Sunbeds in Wales

Read the report here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=151646&ds=11/2009>

Read the Minister's response here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=164977&ds=2/2010>

Welsh Conservatives Debate – Community Pharmacies

On Wednesday AM's will debate the following motion laid by Alun Cairns (South Wales West)

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises that community pharmacies assist in wide scale prevention of health problems and in extensive management of chronic conditions, as well as in tackling ill health.
2. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to engage community pharmacies in Wales in tackling the severe wastage of medicines and to re-invest any resulting savings into a range of community pharmacy preventative care services.
3. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to publish the Final Report of the Minister's Pharmacy Task and Finish Group as soon as possible.

See the amendments tabled and supporting documents here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=165189&ds=2/2010>

Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

On Wednesday AM's will debate the following motion laid by Peter Black (South Wales West)

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the limited provision of specialist treatment for sufferers of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Wales; and
2. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to recognise the prevalence of PTSD in Wales and to identify ways of extending treatment provision to

those in need.

See the amendments tables here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=165189&ds=2/2010>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee will be looking at the following issues:

- Inquiry into Wheelchair Services: Evidence from Rookwood ALAC
- Inquiry into Wheelchair Services: Evidence from Wrexham ALAC
- Scoping Paper on Proposed Inquiry into Neonatal Services
- Key Issues and Draft Recommendations of Stroke Inquiry

To read the full agenda click here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-scrutiny-committees/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=165393&ds=2/2010>

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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