

# Bay Watch

22 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.

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## This Week at the Assembly

### First Minister's Questions

The First Minister will be asked to comment on improving the standard of key public services, and community safety partnerships.

See the list of questions in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=166199&ds=2/2010>

### Rural debate

In Tuesday's plenary, AMs will debate the Deep Rural Localities report by the Wales Rural Observatory. The report discusses access to health services in deep rural areas, and the local population's satisfaction with these services.

The report is available here:

[http://www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/reports/english/2009/DeepRuralReport\\_Oct09.pdf](http://www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/reports/english/2009/DeepRuralReport_Oct09.pdf)

Read more information on the debate in Tuesday's full agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=167607&ds=2/2010>

### Proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure

The Legislation Committee will hear evidence from the Children's Commissioner for Wales, and the Wales Neurological Alliance.

The Welsh NHS Confederation has submitted written evidence, which will be available on our website soon.

More information on the Proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure is available here:

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-leg-measures/bus\\_legislation\\_measures.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-leg-measures/bus_legislation_measures.htm)

### Written Questions Round-Up

#### *Dementia*

The Health Minister said: "Funding for support groups for Alzheimer's and other mental health conditions will be carefully considered as my officials engage with LHBs to ensure there is more equitable funding to the mental health third sector across Wales in the future. I require LHBs to fully consult with all stakeholders on any likely changes in funding and to develop a framework to take this issue forward after 2010/11."

Read the answer in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=167284&ds=2/2010#2>

#### *Hospital closure moratorium*

The Health Minister said the moratorium was “intended to be temporary to allow time for me to consider the service changes being proposed by Trusts and Local Health Boards (LHBs) and the appropriate process for taking these forward.” She added that following a number of reviews, the moratorium was lifted. Revised guidance on consultation and engagement was issued in October 2008. The guidance requires any contested service changes to be referred to the Health Minister for final determination.

Read the answer in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=166749&ds=2/2010#4>

There is no business to report from last week due to the half term recess.

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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)