

Bay Watch

22 March 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

This Week at the Assembly

Tuesday

Plenary

The First Minister will be asked to comment on support for vulnerable people, management of rheumatoid arthritis, recommendations of the Pennington Report and reform of the ambulance service.

The Minister for Business and Budget will be asked to comment on the health and social services budget allocation.

The Minister for Health and Social Services will make a legislative statement on the proposed Mental Health (Wales) Measure

The Deputy Minister for Social Services will make a statement on social services.

Wednesday

The Proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure committee

The committee will hear evidence from the Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will discuss the financial

implications of the Proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure.

Plenary

AMs will debate the government's One Wales agreement. The Liberal Democrats health spokesperson, Peter Black, will argue that for the One Wales agreement to deliver for the people of Wales, the government must investigate claims that one fifth of the NHS budget is "not being spent effectively".

Thursday

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee will receive an update on "operational issues" from the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust. The committee will also continue its inquiry into neonatal services, hearing evidence from:

- The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in Wales
- The Minister for Health and Social Services
- Health Commission Wales.

Last Week at the Assembly

Questions to the First Minister

Health links with spatial plan areas

The First Minister said: "Officers from the new LHBs will be contributing to the spatial plan work on collaborative

projects, such as infrastructure and workforce planning. The objective is to ensure that NHS activities are linked into the wider planning for the region, and that partners' activities contribute to improving health."

GP opening hours

The First Minister is looking to collaborate with GPs in order to ensure that they open their surgeries at times that are more convenient for the public.

Consultation on waiting times data collection

The First Minister said: "We are looking to see how the model might be improved statistically, but it will still be possible for those who have a keen eye...to scrutinise the figures and indeed to compare them."

Ambulance service performance

While the last two months' response times have been disappointing, the First Minister said they compare favourably with those of previous years.

Read the session in full here:

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop/rop20100316qv.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=The%20Record%20\(PDF%2C%20412KB\)](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop/rop20100316qv.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=The%20Record%20(PDF%2C%20412KB))

Supplementary budget debate

The Minister for Business and Budget outlined the supplementary budget, which contains £87 million for the NHS to address "non-recurrent pressures and to meet the costs associated with swine flu." The Minister also outlined funds made available through the Invest to Save fund, which has supported 25 projects. A large number of expressions of interest for the next tranche of the project have come from the NHS. Alun Cairns (South Wales West, Conservative) raised concerns about the costs associated with swine flu.

Read the session in full here:

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop/rop20100316qv.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=The%20Record%20\(PDF%2C%20412KB\)](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop/rop20100316qv.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=The%20Record%20(PDF%2C%20412KB))

Children and Young People Committee

Janet Hawes, vice-chair of Hywel Dda Local Health Board, and Sue Kent, vice-chair of Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board, gave evidence to the committee on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Written evidence to support the oral evidence session is available here:

http://www.assemblywales.org/cyp_3_-04-10_p1_-camhs-2.pdf

Written questions round-up

Written answers have been published to questions on the following subjects:

Proposals to stop collecting and publishing information on NHS waiting times for outpatient appointments and inpatient admissions

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=173087&ds=3/2010#3>

Monitoring adverse events, expenditure on bank and agency nursing

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=173451&ds=3/2010#2>

Number of new HIV infections since 1997, the UK Personal Care at Home Bill

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=173023&ds=3/2010>

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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