

# Bay Watch

5 May 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

### Tuesday

#### Mental Health (Wales) Measure

The committee will hear evidence from Professor Phil Fennell, the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nurses and the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

### Wednesday

#### Plenary

##### *Conservative debate*

The Welsh Conservatives will propose a motion arguing that the government has failed to match the vision of the Beecham Review.

See this week's full Business Notice here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-notice.htm>

## Last Week at the Assembly

### Questions to the First Minister

#### *Funding cuts*

The First Minister said that even if the Barnett formula were to be revised, public services in Wales would still

have to look at making savings. He urged public bodies across Wales to look at every way of saving money before considering compulsory redundancies.

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=178555&ds=4/2010#q1>

### Alcohol pricing policy

In a plenary statement, the Health Minister outlined the arguments for the introduction of a minimum price for alcohol. The Assembly currently does not have the power to implement these changes in Wales, but the Minister and colleagues have been making the case to the UK government. The Minister referenced evidence suggesting that a minimum unit price of between 40p and 50p could reduce the number of alcohol-related deaths in Wales by 20 to 25 per cent.

Read the statement here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=178555&ds=4/2010#dat2>

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)