

Bay Watch

1 June 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

Public consultation

The Assembly has recently issued guidance on consultation practices, which advises staff to use plain language and to spell out any acronyms or explain any jargon used.

NHS spending

The First Minister “remains to be convinced” that £6.5 billion can be found through administrative savings in the NHS. He added: “It will be impossible for us to find this money through administrative savings and through changing working practices alone. It is bound to have an effect on services, which will affect people’s lives.”

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=183889&ds=5/2010#1>

UK Government spending cuts

The Minister for Business and Budget made a statement on UK government spending cuts. She said the Welsh Assembly Government would be “responsible partners in contributing to the reduction of the deficit over coming years”. The Assembly Government will not be “rushing into knee-jerk, unplanned reductions in budgets” that may threaten the recovery. The Chancellor has offered

the Assembly the opportunity to defer some, or all, of the cuts until next year. However, the Assembly Government is seeking further details and greater clarity from the Treasury.

Read the statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=183889&ds=5/2010#3>

Spiritual care in the NHS

The Health Minister launched the new standards for spiritual care services in the NHS. The main themes from the consultation included the training of staff, patient confidentiality, accommodation for worship, mental health, human resource, the secularisation of spiritual care, the needs of children and young people, and nurses’ role in providing spiritual care. The Minister expects plans to be in place locally by September 2010.

Read the statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=183889&ds=5/2010#4>

There is no business to report for this 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