

**[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Head of Corporate Office)  
**Sent:** 07 October 2020 16:13  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Chair); [REDACTED] (Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board); [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health); [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda Health Board - PA to the Chair, Vice-Chair & Independent Board Members)  
**Subject:** Penally Army Training Camp  
**Attachments:** Letter to FM - Penally Oct 2020.pdf

Good afternoon

Please find attached a letter from the Chair, Chief Executive and Director of Public Health concerning Penally Army Training Camp.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Cyfarwyddwr Cynorthwyol Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol Corfforaethol a Materion Cyhoeddus/Assistant Director of Corporate Legal Services and Public Affairs**

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda/Hywel Dda University Health Board  
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Parc Dewi Sant/St David's Park  
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Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen  
SA31 3BB

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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Lleol Hywel Dda/ Hywel Dda University Health Board is the operational name of Hywel Dda University Local Health Board



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

Ein cyf/Our ref:

Chairs Office

Eich cyf/Your ref:

CH.MB/hl 2020

Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:

[REDACTED]

Rhif Ffôn /Telephone:

01267 239637

Dyddiad/Date:

7 October 2020

Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad Ystwyth  
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job  
Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3BB

Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building  
Hafan Derwen, St Davids Park, Job's Well Road,  
Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 3BB

The Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS  
First Minister of Wales

By email: [PS.FirstMinister@gov.wales](mailto:PS.FirstMinister@gov.wales)

Dear First Minister

### Re: Penally Army Training Camp

We would like to raise our concerns about the risk of COVID-19 to the asylum seekers who have been taken to Penally Army Training Camp and the risk of COVID-19 to the local community.

Despite our professional advice to the Home Office, the men are not in 14-day quarantine before they are brought to the camp. They are taken from hotels across multiple London boroughs, and from Bristol where they have been mixing in the community. Again, contrary to our professional advice, they are then transported to Penally in large numbers in coaches where they cannot socially distance.

We consider more should be done in advance of their arrival, to minimise COVID-19 risks for the men already in Penally Camp, the site management team and the local community.

The men are not COVID-19 tested nor in self-isolation before they leave the cities and are not tested for COVID -19 when they arrive in Penally, as we could not support asymptomatic testing on arrival.

We were assured at the outset that the people who would be transferred to the Penally Camp would be "appropriate" in terms of their health needs. This requires the individuals to have been offered and have undertaken an initial health assessment and screening. Despite this firm commitment, we have health information for less than 25% of the men on site, with a significant number due to arrive over the next 48-hours. This is important in relation to other infectious diseases, such as TB.

We are doing everything we can to advise and provide guidance on COVID-19 management on site, including an Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment, a Contingency Plan for the Investigation and Management of Communicable Diseases and COVID-19 in the Penally Camp, and action cards to assist with on-site management.

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Cadeirydd / Chair  
**Miss Maria Battle**

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive  
**Mr Steve Moore**

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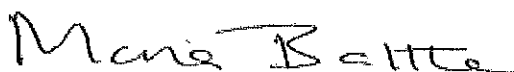
Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yn amgylchedd di-fwg Hywel Dda University Health Board operates a smoke free environment

We cannot ensure COVID security before the men arrive or on the site, and we cannot guarantee compliance with our advice.

We believe this situation is unacceptably unsafe for the local community, which is predominantly elderly, in the high-risk category, and for the asylum seekers.

We respectfully request that you ask the Home Office to close the site. There is a real risk of an outbreak of COVID-19, which will be difficult to contain, which risks spreading within the local community and which will exacerbate community tensions.


Yours sincerely



**Maria Battle**  
Chair



**Steve Moore**  
Chief Executive



**Ros Jervis**  
Director of Public Health

cc Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Health and Social Services  
The Rt Hon Simon Hart MS, Secretary of State for Wales