

**From:** [Political Correspondence \(Hywel Dda UHB - Generic Account\)](#)  
**To:** ["Kevin.Madge@Senedd.Wales"](mailto:Kevin.Madge@Senedd.Wales)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Appeal to Support Meddygfa'r Sarn and Oppose Closure  
**Date:** 23 February 2026 16:54:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Kevin

Thank you for your email of 16 February 2026, in which you highlight the concerns raised locally by your constituent regarding the future of Meddygfa'r Sarn, Pontyates, and the impact you perceive the prospective outcome could have on the ability to access Primary Care services.

We recognise the vital role that GPs play in supporting the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities, and understand the strength of feeling locally about Meddygfa'r Sarn. Whilst recognising that some people have raised concerns about trust in the engagement and decision-making process, we want to reassure residents, patients and elected representatives that no decision has been reached about the future of the Practice.

For further information, I provide a link to the [Sarn Surgery Board Report](#) that was discussed in January 2026. This sets out the position of the Practice, explaining both the challenges and opportunities faced around the current workforce position and the state of the existing premises building, as well as early indications from the neighbouring practice, Coalbrook Surgery in Pontyberem, that is proactively interested in growing its list sizes to future-proof its own sustainability.

For Expressions of Interest received, a Vacant Practice Panel would have to be held to recommend to Board that this was the most appropriate course of action for the future of the Practice. It would then be subject to a procurement process, during which time all information would be provided to all interested parties.

At our January meeting, the Board agreed to an eight-week period of engagement to help us better understand the potential impacts of the Vacant Practice Panel's recommendation and to hear directly from the communities affected. This approach is in line with Welsh Government guidance on consultation and engagement.

The recommendation was made by the Vacant Practice Panel due to ongoing challenges in sustaining the Practice, including difficulties in securing long-term clinical cover, and the need to ensure safe, consistent and high quality care for patients.

We welcomed the opportunity to meet with local councillors recently and value their involvement and challenge as part of this process. To date, two public drop-in sessions have been confirmed, to enable engagement with patients, local residents, staff and key stakeholders, which are as follows:

- Tuesday 24 February, from 1pm to 6.30pm, at Pontyates Welfare Hall, Heol Y Meinciau, Pontyates, SA15 5TR.
- Tuesday 3 March, from 3pm to 6pm, at Pontyberem Memorial Hall, 9 Coalbrook Road, Pontyberem, SA15 5HU

A third event is currently in the planning stages and is hoped to be confirmed shortly.

We know that confidence in engagement is built through listening and openness. I can assure you that over the coming weeks we are committed to hearing carefully what

people tell us, including concerns, experiences and what the potential benefits and impacts could be if Meddygfa'r Sarn's patients were dispersed to other Practices locally. We will ensure that the feedback received is fully and fairly considered by the Board at its public meeting in May 2026.

Furthermore, I can confirm that an Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken ahead of the Board meeting in May 2026, as we learn more from the patient engagement about what these impacts might be on the community.

The purpose of this engagement is to inform our understanding before any decision is taken, and we encourage residents and stakeholders to participate, so their voices shape the discussion.

I trust this update is of assistance and goes some way to providing assurance that no decision has been made as yet, and that the Board is committed to hearing the voice of our communities to help inform this process.

Regards

[Redacted]

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

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