

Llais,
33-35 Heol y Gadeirlan,
Caerdydd,
CF11 9HB

Llais,
33-35 Cathedral Road,
Cardiff,
CF11 9HB



09 April 2024

Stephen Harrhy
Director of Commissioning, Ambulance and 111
NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

Sent via email to: Stephen.Harrhy@wales.nhs.uk
Chairs and Chief Executives of Local Health Boards

Dear Stephen

Thank you for your letter of 2 April 2024 and correspondence of 4 and 5 April 2024 which included the papers to be considered by each of the local health boards at a series of extraordinary meetings this week.

Having considered this correspondence, we wish to make the following representations:

- i) We note the recognition within the papers of the strength of feeling within the rural communities of Wales about the proposals, peoples' continued concerns about the impact of the proposals on the rural population, and the determination that further work is needed to "develop bespoke road based enhanced and/or critical care services in rural and remote areas" in response to these concerns.
- ii) We note the proposal to establish a Task and Finish Group to further refine and develop the approach, including further public engagement, and to deliver a detailed implementation plan by the end of September 2024.

Cadeirydd / Chair: **Athro / Professor Medwin Hughes DL**
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive: **Alyson Thomas**
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- iii) We note the proposal to endorse ‘further work be undertaken by the Wales Air Ambulance Charity to scope an operational base in line with findings to support future decision making’.
- iv) Given the identified need for this further work, and the acknowledgement that “no changes will be made to current EMRTS base locations until 2026 at the earliest and will be subject to implementation of the plan agreed in September 2024”, we are unaware of the reasons why it is considered necessary at this stage to proceed with a decision on the proposal to consolidate the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer services currently operating at Welshpool and Caernarfon bases into a single site in North Wales.

In taking a decision, we can see that health boards have been asked to note “the risk to the Charity” although it is not clear to us what this risk is in terms of the timing of the decision, and how this might impact on people.

In view of this, we think it is unlikely that a decision made now by individual health boards and in turn the Joint Committee to approve the proposal to reduce EMRTS base locations would be reassuring for anyone - before the proposed further work is undertaken, and therefore without a fuller picture of how services would look for people living in rural and remote areas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J A Thomas'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Chief Executive

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. If you write to us in Welsh, we will answer in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding to your correspondence.

Cadeirydd / Chair: **Athro / Professor Medwin Hughes DL**

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