

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/  
Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru  
Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Director General Health and Social Services/  
NHS Wales Chief Executive  
Health and Social Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

██████████  
Swansea Bay University Health Board

02 April 2024

Dear ██████████

**RE: Independent review of maternity and neonatal services at Swansea Bay UHB**

Thank you for your letter dated the 11 March which provided an update on the progress of the independent maternity and neonatal review at Swansea Bay University Health Board. I have also had sight of the update, published on the health boards website on the 19 March 2024.

I appreciate that this is an independent review and it is important to ensure that there are clear lines of governance and accountability between the health board and the review team. However, I do remain concerned about the length of time it is taking to commence the review and would press on you the need to commence this as soon as possible and ideally as early as possible in April 2024.

There is considerable staff, family, user and public interest in this review and it is encouraging to see the intention to consult on the draft terms of reference before they are finalised. It is essential that staff, families and service users can engage in the review in a meaningful way. I would request that the approach to providing patients, public and staff with the opportunity to comment on the terms of reference before they are finalised by the oversight panel is undertaken in a fair and transparent way using a variety of communication approaches.

I am also interested in understanding how the patient voice will be heard throughout the review and would like early sight of the organogram that will set this out in more detail. The Welsh Government will seek to have an early meeting with the oversight panel once the membership is confirmed. We will of course keep you updated on the outcome of the meeting as appropriate.

I look forward to receiving further updates that will confirm the membership of the oversight panel, the members of the review team, the anticipated start date and the plans for staff,

family and patient engagement in agreeing the terms of reference and ensuring that their voices are heard throughout the review process.

Yours sincerely,

