



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd /Chair: [REDACTED]
Prif Weithredwr Dros Dro/Interim Chief Executive: [REDACTED]

gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

Pencadlys Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Bae Abertawe

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Swansea Bay University Health Board Headquarters

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

 01639 683302

Dyddiad/Date: 7th May 2024

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]
Head of Performance, Escalation and Intervention
Welsh Government

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 2nd May seeking clarity on correspondence and an online news story regarding our maternity services.

The correspondence and information reported in the online news story (as well as additional social media comments) allege that "a mother died directly as a result of serious mismanagement of the maternity service and wider issues around governance and learning" and that the death was caused by an "organisational issue". It cited that "the Health Board closed down its Maternity ITU" and it was replaced by a cupboard.

These assertions are wholly incorrect and are misleading. We are very concerned of the impact that this might have on our mothers to be, on our staff and particularly, for the family of the individual who sadly passed away.

In line with best practice, the clinical case of the patient who died was reviewed using a structured review process that included staff from Welsh Ambulance Service, Obstetrics, Anaesthetics, Neurology, Radiology and a General Practitioner. The review found that there were no issues with the care which, either directly or indirectly, caused or contributed to the death.

We are not including it here to protect patient confidentiality, but would be happy to direct you to where it can be found, if you wish.



As you are probably aware, there has not been an ITU in Singleton Hospital for well over a decade. The basis of the correspondence is therefore completely wrong.

However, there is and has always been, an operational HDU in the maternity service. The suggestion that this was closed down and replaced by a cupboard is incorrect. During COVID it was moved from one location to another with the old location being used for storage. At no stage was the HDU closed down.

The potential upset for the family is a very real issue as the correspondence and information reported in the online news story includes details that would enable the patient in question to be identified without the family's consent.

In relation to staff, we have had to provide support to several members of staff who have been very upset by the inaccurate allegations and comments in the article and on social media and who feel very vulnerable as a result.

We hope this response provides you with sufficient information to address your concerns regarding the irresponsible and inaccurate claims made in the correspondence and via the online news article as well as on social media.

Your letter also asked for an update on the reopening of Neath Port Talbot Birth Centre and the reinstatement of the homebirth service. I understand you have received a separate update on these matters.

Yours sincerely

