

Yr Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Department for Health and Social Services

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Eirian Roberts
Council Offices
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH
maireirianroberts@gwynedd.gov.uk

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Dear Eirian Roberts

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October to Mark Drakeford AM, the Minister for Health and Social Services, noting Gwynedd Council's support to the idea of having a Medical University in North Wales. I have been asked to respond.

There are already close links between the Universities and the Health Board in North Wales.

The North Wales Clinical School has academic staff from Bangor and Glyndŵr Universities. Establishing the school has increased the number of clinical places for students in North Wales and it is hoped that this will improve the ability to recruit younger physicians throughout the region.

We know that many medical students continue with their careers in the areas in which they were trained. Through the Working for Wales campaign, we will continue to promote the advantages of living and working in Wales. It is clear that radical and urgent changes need to be made to the health service in Wales. One of the many advantages of the reorganisation is that specialists in specific fields will come together in centres of excellence. This will offer the opportunity to provide better training as well as having a better quality of care.

We have established the Welsh Medical and Dental Academic Board, which is chaired by Baroness Ilora Finlay of Llandaff. The aim of the Board is to look at the future of medical and dental education in Wales in order to ensure that providers work together to provide education and training of a high standard, including a sustainable workforce for the NHS in Wales. The Board has recently been considering the matter of providing medical

education in North Wales. The outcome of those discussions will be presented to the Minister for Health and Social Services in the next few weeks.

Yours truly,

Clive Nurton

Government's Business Team