

TRANSLATED BY CYNGOR GWYNEDD

Mabon ap Gwynfor AS/MS
Gweinidog Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal
Cabinet Minister for Health and Care

Ein cyf/Our ref MG/06237/26

Elin Walker Jones

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14 September 2026

Dear Elin Walker Jones,

Thank you for your letter dated 6 August on behalf of Cyngor Gwynedd regarding Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has been at the highest level of escalation in NHS Wales since February 2023 due to significant concerns around governance, leadership, patient safety, and performance. While some progress has been made by the health board, we know that there are ongoing challenges in providing safe, timely, and effective care to people in North Wales.

As part of level 5 escalation, the health board is subject to increased oversight and scrutiny by the Welsh Government, as well as targeted support to drive the necessary improvements in care and the provision of services to patients. In a statement to the Senedd on 30 June, I announced new measures to stabilise services, strengthen leadership, and hold Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board accountable for implementing continuous improvement, as part of the health board's ongoing level 5 escalation arrangements.

This will include directly targeted support from NHS Wales Performance and Improvement, bringing together operational and clinical experts to drive urgent improvement with a focus on the most pressing risk areas that are currently affecting the organisation. The Welsh Government has also commissioned a leadership quality review which will provide a full picture of the health board's current situation, including operational, leadership, and culture challenges. A nationally appointed expert panel has now convened to carry out the review.

The final report of the leadership review is due to be presented to the Welsh Government in October 2026. I have been clear that I expect this report to provide clear evidence-based recommendations, ensuring transparency about the changes needed to help me decide on the most appropriate next steps for seeing improvements delivered for the benefit of the people of North Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Mabon ap Gwynfor AS

Gweinidog Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal

Cabinet Minister for Health and Care

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