



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

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Private & Confidential

Dr James Davies
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Ein cyf / Our ref: GH/MB/CA22/818
Eich cyf / Your ref: JD16576
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Andrea Owen
E-bost / Email: BCU.MSMPCorrespondence@wales.nhs.uk
Dyddiad / Date: 19th January 2023

Dear James

Re: Assistant Director for North Wales Dental Services

Thank you for your letter of 9th November 2022 regarding the Health Board's dental service and the role of the Assistant Director for North Wales Dental Services.

I am pleased to hear that you have had a constructive meeting with Peter Greensmith about the Health Board's plans to improve our dental service and increase access to NHS dentistry. As you acknowledge, this has been a long-term challenge. The recently opened Dental Academy will help us train and retain dental staff across North Wales, and there is other planned Health Board investment in NHS dentistry.

The Health Board is in the final stages of approval for a procurement exercise for dental services. We have sent our proposals to the Welsh Government for them to be aware, and are currently waiting for the Minister to formally note them by a reply letter. Once this has been received, then we will start the tendering process.

The procurement will be for additional activity in existing practices or for the establishment of new practices, and has a total combined value of £1.3m p.a. that is recurrent funding. The procurement exercise identifies the Health Board's priority areas of need for access to services. These include: Conwy, Betws y Coed, Llandudno, Dwyfor, Meirionnydd, Anglesey, Flintshire, Abergelge/Pensarn, Deeside, and Rhyl.

Where there are successful bidders, then the time taken to mobilise services will depend on the status of the bidder. Where this is adding additional activity to an existing contract, then this can be done relatively quickly. Establishing a new practice will be more long term.

Cyfeiriad Gohebiaeth ar gyfer y Cadeirydd a'r Prif Weithredwr / Correspondence address for Chairman and Chief Executive:

Swyddfa'r Gweithredwyr / Executives' Office, Ysbyty Gwynedd, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2PW

Gwefan: www.pbc.cymru.nhs.uk

Web: www.bcu.wales.nhs.uk

Mae'r Bwrdd Iechyd yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a bydd yn sicrhau y darperir ymateb yn Gymraeg heb oedi

The Health Board welcomes correspondence through the medium of Welsh and will ensure that a response is provided in Welsh without incurring a delay

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board is the operational name of Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board



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The Health Board are also looking at increasing the availability of Tier 2 services delivered through Primary Care across North Wales. These are services that are above what can be expected from a standard practice, but which can be delivered in Primary Care by those who are suitably qualified. Currently we are looking to commission Oral Surgery in this way. However, we also have plans in the future for Restorative, Endodontic and Periodontal services. These services currently have waiting lists for secondary care delivery and the commissioning of Tier 2 community services would alleviate the waits, and allow delivery of services closer to patients' homes.

The culture of innovation in dentistry will continue, and a dental stakeholder away day was held on 18th January 2023 to inform the Health Board's dental strategy. The 180 participants included GDS colleagues, community dental services secondary care dental colleagues, dental management, and patient representation to ensure we get it right for those accessing our dental services. External facilitators will now produce a report of the discussions, which will inform a six-month and a two-year plan of work implementing some of the ideas and suggestions.

The assistant director of dental services is an important role as part of our improvement plans and the profile of dentistry within the Health Board has been enhanced by the assistant director for dentistry now directly reporting to the deputy director of integrated healthcare. In addition, dentistry clinical governance is part of the role of the deputy executive medical director, and they will be working very closely with the new substantive deputy director for integrated healthcare on this area,

Following the final agreement on the Health Board's new operating structure, all the acting posts will be advertised as substantive posts. This is expected to happen in January 2023 and it is anticipated the roles will all be advertised externally.

I hope that my response addresses the issues raised, but if you require any further information then do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gill Harris'.

Gill Harris
Prif Weithredwr Dros Dro / Acting Chief Executive