

Our Ref NP/dh/law

Direct Line 01633 435975

3 September 2021

Sian Harrop-Griffiths  
Director of Strategy  
Swansea Bay University Health Board  
One Talbot Gateway  
Port Talbot  
SA12 7BR

Dear Sian

## **Strategic Outline Case for South Wales Adult Thoracic Surgical Centre**

Thank you for your letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 regarding the above. I am pleased to respond on behalf of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, making reference to my previous letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 on the same topic.

Our priorities when reviewing the draft Strategic Outline Case (SOC) focus on three principles:-

- To ensure that patients from the Aneurin Bevan catchment area requiring thoracic surgical management receive an enhanced level of service, access and patient outcomes as a result of the establishment of the new regional network.
- The investment proposed is developed with clarity to ensure it is aligned to 'prudent healthcare' principles and represents value for money for the services to be delivered.
- To ensure that all financial and contractual arrangements are fully completed, understood and agreed by all stakeholders as equitable and fair across the participating health boards.

In respect of the above I can confirm that having previously accepted the evidence base of the original review and proposals for the network, we remain reassured regarding the basis for a single centre for South Wales and hence regarding the positive benefits for patient access, experience and outcomes that should result from its establishment. It will be important for the case to provide clear current baselines for each health board's patients. From a population health view point, it would be useful to understand how we benchmark with the rest of the UK in terms of access to thoracic surgery and the current patient outcomes.

### **Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan**

Pencadlys,  
Ysbyty Sant Cadog  
Ffordd Y Llodj  
Caerllion  
Casnewydd  
De Cymru NP18 3XQ  
Ffôn: 01633 436700  
E-bost: [abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk)

### **Aneurin Bevan University Health Board**

Headquarters  
St Cadoc's Hospital  
Lodge Road  
Caerleon  
Newport  
South Wales NP18 3XQ  
Tel No: 01633 436700  
Email: [abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk)

In respect of the investment estimates, we note that the options appraisal identifies additional revenue cost pressures ranging from £4.4M to £8.8M. These are significant figures for the level of activity growth and will need further rigorous justification as they represent a challenge to all participating health boards. We would expect the commissioning scrutiny process to test the service, workforce and financial plans to ensure they are reflective of best practice benchmarks to achieve the activity and patient outcome improvements.

I can therefore confirm as follows:-

- We remain fully supportive in principle of the establishment of a single South Wales Thoracic Surgical Centre at Morriston Hospital.
- We are happy to continue to support the Strategic Outline Case for the Centre in principle, but have concerns regarding the revenue cost pressures resulting from the options identified, and anticipate that further detailed discussions will be required to ensure and agree the affordability and equity of the final business case in due course.

Yours sincerely



**Nicola Prygodzicz**  
**Director of Planning, Digital & IT**

cc Glyn Jones, Director of Finance  
Rob Holcombe, Deputy Director of Finance