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**Dyddiad / Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Janet,

**Re: Rheumatology Services, Llandudno General Hospital**

Thank you for copying me into your letter of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, expressing concerns over the difficulties with medical staff recruitment for the rheumatology service at Llandudno General Hospital.

I can confirm that I did respond to Mr Rivett at the British Society for Rheumatology and I enclose a copy of this correspondence for your information.

Regrettably, we are facing significant difficulties in recruiting consultant rheumatologists to fill our current and impending vacancies. This reflects the shortage of potential candidates at a national level, where we are aware of over twenty posts that are being advertised at present.

As part of our wider recruitment efforts we continue to seek ways to promote North Wales as an attractive place to work and to encourage any potential candidates to consider applying for the positions that we are seeking to fill.

We are also undertaking a review of rheumatology services across North Wales to identify how we can deliver an effective and sustainable service in the light of the ongoing workforce challenges.

I hope that my comments provide assurance that we are very much aware of the pressures around our rheumatology services and that we are working to find solutions to these. Please do not hesitate to contact me again if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

**Gary Doherty**  
**Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive**