



Janet Finch-Saunders AC/AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberconwy

Assembly Member for Aberconwy



Vaughan Gething AM
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Government,
By Email

9 July 2019
Ref: MJ/JF0516

Private and Confidential
Re: Business Statement

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders AM,
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National Assembly for Wales,
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Dear Minister,

I am writing further to the contribution I made during business statements on 2 July 2019.

As you will know from having listened to my comments, care homes across North Wales are facing a financial crisis. Indeed, they have been expected to manage their vital businesses without knowing how much money they are being paid for supporting patients on continuing healthcare fees.

On 26 June 2019 Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board issued an email to care providers stating that they have just now approved the CHC fees for 2018-19. As you can see from the enclosed copy, it is explained that for invoices relating to 2018/19, an interim settlement was made in November 2018 and that the balance of the uplift will be paid on 28 June 2019 – covering the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. Therefore, it appears that care homes have been operating without knowing how much they will be paid for CHC patients, and in one home, this was in relation to around 50% of service users.

In response to my concerns, Rebecca Evans AM, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, advised that I should write to yourself. It follows that I would be very grateful if you could kindly investigate why care providers have only just been paid the CHC fees for 2018/19, and explain what steps you can take to ensure that the same situation does not occur this financial year.

[Cont...]

Mi wnaiff Janet Finch-Saunders cadw unrhyw wybodaeth bersonol yn gwbl gyfrinachol, ac fel arfer mi fydd rhaid iddi rannu'r wybodaeth 'efo aelodau o staff i'w galluogi nhw i ddelio 'efo'r awdurdodau perthnasol er mwyn eich helpu a'ch cynorthwyo chi. Efallai mi fydd angen i rywun ysgrifennu atoch er mwyn darparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf o bwys. Gadwch wybod i ni os nad oes diddordeb gennych mewn cael eich cysylltu at y diben hwn.

Janet Finch-Saunders will treat in confidence any personal information which you may pass on to her, and she will normally allow her staff to see it, so that they can consult with relevant authorities in order to help and advise you. We may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

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—
Assembly Member for Aberconwy



[Cont...]

Additionally, I would be grateful if you could liaise with the health board so to review how the General and EMI CHC basic fee rates are set. Currently they relate to the home Local Authority area of the resident rather than the location or actual costs of the care homes. What this means is that an EMI home in Anglesey will be paid a different rate of care for CHC patients if they come from Gwynedd, Conwy, or Flintshire. Surely, it is unfair that the fees are set in this manner when the care homes themselves do not discriminate on the place of origin. Indeed, the businesses I have visited are all striving in very difficult circumstances to provide an excellent standard of care.

Yours sincerely

Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC

Enc – Email from BCU CHC Payments 26 June 2019