



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/0951/19

Suzy Davies AM
Assembly Member for South Wales West

Suzy.Davies@assembly.wales

11 March 2019

Dear Suzy,

I am writing to you following the concerns you raised during Business Questions on 5 March in relation to the care of women who experience miscarriage, specifically about the use of mixed wards in Singleton Hospital.

My officials have been in touch with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board (ABMUHB) and I am assured that they are doing everything appropriate to ensure that women who miscarry are treated with respect and dignity at that difficult time.

ABMUHB has provided complete assurance that although they share the same ward, (Ward 2 surgical) male patients are not nursed in beds alongside gynaecology patients. Men and women are cared for completely separately, in different physical areas, and with their own gender-specific bathrooms and toilets.

Wards at Singleton Hospital are long and span most of the width of an entire floor. Ward 2 has a reception desk at the entrance, and either side of the desk there are a number of self-contained four bedded bays. Men are in beds in bays on one side of the reception area, and women occupy bays on the other side, with only the reception desk being shared. There are also three single rooms, two of which have en-suite facilities.

Gynaecology inpatient beds in Singleton Hospital have relocated from Ward 20 to Ward 2 as a consequence of work to further develop maternity and neonatal services at the site. For these developments to go ahead, Ward 18, the post-natal ward, and Ward 20, the former gynaecology ward, will need major work and refurbishment. Moving patients from Ward 20 to Ward 2 allows the post-natal patients to use the Ward 20 area while work is going on in Ward 18.

The Ward 2 nursing team fully comply with the health board's Prioritisation of Single Rooms Guidance and at times of single room shortages, there is a priority order which is observed when allocating patients single rooms. The ward staff will prioritise the use of the single rooms in the female side of the ward for women who have had a miscarriage or other sensitive procedures.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Miscarriage can cause considerable distress and affect the quality of life of many women. Approximately 20% of pregnancies miscarry and early pregnancy loss accounts for over 50,000 admissions in the UK annually. Consequently, I take the issue of miscarriage very seriously and my officials are looking at miscarriage services in Wales more broadly in the light of a report published by Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales – *Making the case for better miscarriage care in Wales*. We will continue to develop policies which support women and ensure they are given the best possible care

I hope that this response offers reassurance that women who suffer miscarriage and are nursed in Singleton Hospital are receiving care in the appropriate surroundings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services