

Morgannwg Local Dental Committee

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15th April 2012

Mr Win Griffiths
Chairman
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan Energy Park
Baglan
Port Talbot
SA12 7BR

Dear Mr Griffiths

Ministerial Letter LG/LM/001/12 – Ring Fencing of Dental Primary Care Budgets

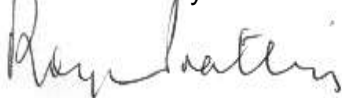
Morgannwg LDC noted with some concern the contents of the ministerial letter LG/LM/001/12 of 7th March 2012 to the Chairmen of the Welsh HBs. It confirmed the extension of ring fencing of primary care dental budgets for a further three years to the end of financial year 2014-2015. It further stated 'Dental outturn figures for 2010/11 indicate some LHBs are supporting services not originally intended to be covered by the dental budget and are using the ring-fenced resources to support other activity.' Furthermore 'There should be no expectation an underspend against the dental contract or Designed to Smile allocations can be used to meet any other LHB pressures at a local level.'

The letter was circulated to LDC colleagues and discussed at its meeting on 27th March 2012. There was concern expressed that if ABMU HB had used dental monies inappropriately in the context of the letter, then a great deal of the trust of the LDC towards ABMU HB carefully built up since October 2009 would be lost. Members demanded the LDC executive should establish whether or not ABMU HB is one of the LHBs referred to in the Ministerial Letter.

With this in mind, the LDC would like to know whether any monies from the GDS ring fenced budget or D2S ring fenced budget in the year 2011-12 have been used to support other services/specialties in ABMU HB either directly or indirectly.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



**Roger Pratley
Secretary, Morgannwg LDC**

cc Mr Paul Stauber, Director of Planning, Executive Lead for Dentistry.
Ms Alex Howells, Director of Primary Care and Community Services.
Mr Karl Bishop, Associate Medical Director, Dentistry.
Dr Hugh Bennett, Public Health Wales.