

Bay Watch

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Bay Watch is a weekly political briefing for Welsh NHS Confederation members that is focused on health issues and policies being discussed and debated in the National Assembly for Wales.

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Last Week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

Fairwood Hospital

David Lloyd (Plaid Cymru, South West Wales) questioned the First Minister on local perceptions that guidelines to admit patients to Fairwood Hospital are too strict in order to reduce the numbers of patients being admitted. The First Minister said the issue should be raised with the Health Board.

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=205068&ds=12/2010#q1>

Life Expectancy Debate

The Liberal Democrats criticised the government for the widening gap between life expectancy in Wales and England, and for the variation across different parts of Wales. Conservative health spokesperson, Nick Ramsay, claimed that the "failure" of the Welsh Assembly Government to cut management costs was to blame.

Many AMs supported the point that the determinants of health often lie outside the responsibility of the NHS and the health budget. The Health Minister welcomed the fact that life expectancy in Wales has risen 3.9 years for men and 2.7 years for women since 1993 and outlined figures to show that management costs in NHS Wales have fallen.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=205260&ds=12/2010#dad2>

There is no business to report for this week due to the Christmas Recess. Bay Watch will return in 2011.