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Kerrie Burge
H.M. Coroner for South Wales Central
Coroner's Office
The Old Courthouse
Courthouse Street
Pontypridd CF37 1JW
[REDACTED]

12 November 2025

Dear Kerrie,

Regulation 28 Report – Gareth Idris Johnson

I was sorry to hear about the sad circumstances that led to Gareth Idris Johnson's death and want to take this opportunity to offer my condolences to his family and friends.

Below is the Welsh Government response to the Regulation 28 report following the death of Mr Johnson at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW). It is important lessons are identified and learnt from this tragedy and effectively shared across NHS Wales.

There are longer term plans being reviewed and considered by the health board for the redevelopment of the University Hospital of Wales site. This response focuses on the short and medium-term actions I will be seeking the health board to review at the site to address patient safety and ensure the continuity of healthcare services to the local population. The day-to-day operation and management of the site and the healthcare services provided remains the statutory responsibility of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB). There are also actions, which will be highlighted to other health boards in Wales.

Specific funding (£0.750m) has been made available to Cardiff and Vale UHB to complete a detailed condition survey of the main buildings on the UHW site to ensure future investment is appropriately targeted. This work will inform short-term investments and whether the buildings are suitable for significant refurbishment in the future.

It is recognised there are many areas of the UHW estate that require significant investment. My officials are working closely with colleagues from Cardiff and Vale UHB about the priority areas for investment informed by a recent capital prioritisation exercise.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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.

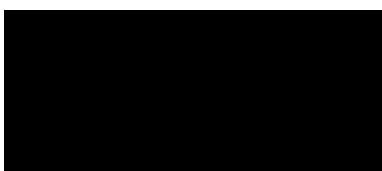
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The actions we are taking forward as a consequence of the Regulation 28 report are as follows:

- 1) Officials met Cardiff and Vale UHB on 15 October with NHS Shared Services Partnership-Specialist Estate Services (NWSSP-SES) to discuss the infrastructure issues at the ITU, critical care and theatres departments at the University Hospital of Wales. A business case is being developed to refurbish the ITU. Due to a lack of available space to relocate patients and the nature of the work involved, this work will likely take a number of years to complete.
- 2) To write to Cardiff and Vale UHB to confirm what clinical governance is in place to approve changes in the location of critical care and to ensure the appropriate clinical cover is in place to provide safe care during future planned maintenance of the critical care unit.
- 3) To write to selected health boards, including Cardiff and Vale UHB, to request them to respond to the NHS Performance and Improvement critical care network census. This includes questions about the estate, so Welsh Government can develop a national picture with expert context about the estate challenges for critical care across Wales. The census report will be considered by the Welsh Government to inform capital investment plans and health board planning.

There are plans being explored for further capital investment at the University Hospital of Wales. While the condition of the existing estate was not the primary cause of Mr Johnson's death, the need to make estate improvements led to the relocation of patients, which was a contributory factor. I hope the actions I have set out above will result in robust measures being put in place to manage patient moves in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care