

<p><b>Health and Social Services Group</b> <b>Welsh Government</b></p> <p><b>Informal Briefing</b> <b>Independent Review of Swansea Bay Maternity Services</b></p> <p><b>31 January 2024</b></p>	 <p>Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**To: FM, MHSS, JP, ST, KJ, NW, JG**

**From:** WG Officer 8<redaction s40(2)>

The health board announced on the 31 January 2024 the appointment of an Independent Chair to oversee an Independent Review of their maternity and neonatal services.

Margaret Bowron KC, will chair an independent Oversight Panel that will oversee the Review and provide independent scrutiny of both the recommendations emerging from the Review, and the actions needed to implement the recommendations, against agreed milestones. Margaret Bowron was appointed by the Health Board following a recruitment process facilitated by Bevan Brittan LLP. She will be responsible for appointing the membership of the Oversight Panel, with advice and support from Bevan Brittan LLP. the health board will play no role in those appointments. The appointees came from candidates nominated by their professional bodies, with Bevan Brittan LLP having a key input based on their knowledge within the health sector. An announcement on the full membership of the panel will be made once all members of the Oversight Panel have been appointed. The Panel membership will include an independent patient representative body to ensure patient voices are heard within this forum.

The draft Terms of Reference for the Review will be considered by the Oversight Panel and will be amended in order to enable a robust review of the services in a way that allows necessary lessons to be learnt and for there to be confidence that the health board can and will deliver safe care in future.

Margaret is a respected KC with over forty years of experience. She is herself both a specialist in healthcare related legal issues and a trained Mediator. She has considerable experience acting in cases involving birth acquired brain injury. In the last few years Margaret Bowron has been instructed in a number of group actions including claims involving gynaecologists in the North West and South West of England. She has very extensive expertise of both the clinical issues involved and the devastating impact on patients when things go wrong and is therefore ideally qualified to act independently without fear or favour, following the evidence in an objective and compassionate way.

The Review will consider three areas, each led by relevant independent experts:

- Clinical outcomes;
- Patient and staff experience; and

<p><b>Health and Social Services Group</b> <b>Welsh Government</b></p> <p><b>Informal Briefing</b> <b>Independent Review of Swansea Bay Maternity Services</b> <b>31 January 2024</b></p>	 <p>Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- Leadership and governance.

An expert and experienced team of maternity and neonatal clinicians from outside Wales have already been appointed to carry out the review of clinical cases and feedback to the engagement process. The review will include an in-depth analysis of the mortality figures published as part of the MBRRACE report for 2021 as well as their 2022 report that is expected to be published soon. Preliminary internal data for 2023 will also be reviewed and triangulated with health board data.

The Review will involve a comprehensive engagement process with service users who will have the opportunity to input and provide details of their own experiences as per the draft Terms of Reference. This element of the review will be led by an independent Patient Engagement Lead. The patient voice is an important part of the overall process and the health board is committed to ensuring it is heard. Information on how this will be facilitated will be provided once the Oversight Panel and review teams are fully established.

External experts on leadership and governance (Bevan Brittan) will review how the service is run and how it reports to the wider health board.

The Oversight Panel will have a role when the Review concludes and will be part of the oversight process to ensure that appropriate plans are put in place by the health board to address the Review's findings, reporting back directly to formal health board meetings.