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University Health Board

Ysbyty Gwynedd, Penrhosgarnedd,  
Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2PW

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Gwynedd Hospital, Penrhosgarnedd,  
Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2PW

Mr John A Gittins  
H M Coroner for North Wales (East and  
Central)  
County Hall  
Wynnstay Road  
Ruthin  
LL15 1YN

Ein cyf / Our ref: EINQ-1582  
Eich cyf / Your ref: [REDACTED]  
Rhif Ffon / Phone: ☎: [REDACTED]  
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: [REDACTED]  
Ffacs / Fax: [REDACTED]  
E-bost / Email: [REDACTED]  
Dyddiad / Date: 2 September 2014

Dear Mr Gittins

**Re: Report for the Prevention of Future Deaths – Alun Sheppard**

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2014 enclosing the Report for the Prevention of Future Deaths in accordance with Regulation 28 of the Coroners' (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

Firstly, on behalf of the Health Board, I would like to forward our sincere condolences to Mr Sheppard's family for their loss.

I note the matter of concern to be:

"Effectively the concern in this case revolves around whether the Health Board is able to balance the patient's right to confidentiality whilst also seeking to optimise the prospect of recovery by facilitating familial support".

I totally agree that the prospect of any patient's recovery is improved with familial support. Mental health practitioners routinely encourage service users to engage with their family members and increase their support networks.

The policy of the Health Board is to use a confidentiality form, a copy of which is enclosed. If a patient has capacity to make decisions about whether or not families or carers are involved in a patient's care planning and care, services are obliged to respect that decision unless there is an overriding public interest that merits disclosure of information. If a patient makes a capacitous decision not to involve their family or carers in their care, mental health practitioners still have a responsibility to listen to any concerns and act upon them accordingly. If a patient is deemed to lack capacity, a disclosure of information needs to be based on a Best Interest Decision.

If you feel it would be helpful to discuss this response in more detail, please contact [REDACTED] Chief of Staff for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Clinical Programme Group. [REDACTED]



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I hope that this response has provided you with the reassurance you sought when issuing the Regulation 28 Report.

Yours sincerely,



Signed by the Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery on behalf of the Chief Executive

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