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Mr Vaughan Gething AM

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1NA

8th August 2018

Dear Mr Gething,

Re: Our meeting of the 6th August 2018

Thank you very much for meeting with me at your office on Monday 6th August. I was really pleased that you did find the time to meet with me so soon after receipt of my letter in what I appreciate must be a very full diary for you. It was also good to see Joanna Jordan again.

Overall, I hope that you found our meeting on Monday helpful in my setting out of my concerns around mental health provision at BCUHB and my continuing concerns at the scale of the improvement journey in mental health that BCUHB and its Board must deliver upon. When we met I discussed that 25 members of front line staff had come forward with concerns around staffing levels and safety in older persons mental health since the publication of my report. Whilst I have been reinforcing to the staff the need to raise concerns appropriately both within BCUHB and with HIW I do think the numbers are significant because for everyone who does feel able to come forward and raise concerns there will be others who feel exactly the same but for a variety of reasons do not feel able to raise concerns.

When we met I also explained that the Ockenden governance report itself was not an 'historic' document but was grounded in the everyday reality of older persons mental health provision in BCUHB since front line staff and service

user representatives had continued to contribute to the report until it went for printing in early July. I had also made this clear to the BCUHB Board leading up to publication and on the day of publication.

Going forward, I know you have been absolutely clear with the expectations you have of the BCUHB Board in the need for them to deliver sustainable change in mental health. Although you may not be thinking of (or may not think necessary) the role of someone overseeing the BCUHB improvement journey on your behalf I wanted to say that if you did make a decision that this was a necessary step I would be really pleased to assist you in that role. I think the role could only work reporting directly to you/ your office and would be best undertaken by someone independent and outside of BCUHB who really does understand the journey BCUHB has been on and the journey it still has ahead. Again, whilst appreciating that you may not consider this a necessary step, anyone undertaking this work on your behalf would have to have credibility with the widest range of stakeholders including the BCUHB Board, service user representatives in all their forms and front line staff.

I will leave this offer of assistance with you and sincerely hope that you have the time to enjoy a summer break at some point soon

With all good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DO' followed by a stylized flourish.

Donna Ockenden