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20th February 2015

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Graham,

Thank you for your letter of the 19th January 2015, including a copy of the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's (CVUHB) action plan dated January 2015.

Action plan following Professional Affairs Board visit in April 2013

We have considered your action plan and supporting documentation along with the helpful written updates provided by your clinical leads within neurosurgery, ENT, Renal Transplant, General Surgery, and Cardiac Surgery.

We are pleased to note the progress you report in the areas highlighted when our Professional Affairs Board (PAB) originally visited CVUHB in April 2013.

We note that since 2013 significant progress has been made to improve the management of waiting lists for cardiac surgery at CVUHB, and that there appears to be improved clinical engagement with the CVUHB's wider programme of work to improve patient services.

We recognise that there remain a significant number of areas where CVUHB's work remains in progress. Key challenges will be to fully implement the plans for the PACU within critical care, and to continue to improve CVUHB's management of unscheduled care.

### Current service pressures

We note that like many parts of the UK over December, January and February major pressures have been placed on your unscheduled care service and that CVUHB are continuing to adopt “extraordinary measures” to maintain an appropriate flow of patients through the hospital, and that during this time it remains your intention to maintain elective surgical activity and especially urgent cancer and cardiac services.

We consider it important that when taking steps to respond to these pressures you continue to liaise closely with appropriate national bodies such as Health Inspectorate Wales to be able to demonstrate the ways you are continuing to maintain quality and safety during this time.

### Relationships with WHSCC and Welsh government

The College is also clear that when managing CVUHB’s overall programme of improvement activity it will be crucially important for CVUHB, WHSCC and Welsh government to continue to work collaboratively - particularly with regard to the future development of specialist surgical activity across Wales.

### Future support

Given the progress that you are now able to report through your action plan, as well as the activity you have planned to further develop your clinical services during 2015, we do not currently consider it necessary to meet again with your surgical or senior management teams.

We also do not consider that we currently require any further assurance about the action plan you have put in place to address the concerns originally raised during the visit of the RCS’ PAB in March 2013. We would, however, be grateful if for completeness you could provide the final version of your action plan when this has been signed off at Board level later this year.

As we do across the whole UK, the RCS will also continue to maintain an interest in [supporting surgeons in the workplace](#) at CVUHB. The RCS Director for Professional Affairs in Wales is Mr Tim Harvard FRCS, and we would ask that you now continue to remain in contact with Tim so the College can continue to help surgeons working locally as your action plan is taken forward.

If at any time you would find it helpful to receive any further support from the members of the College team who attended CVUHB in April 2014 we would also be very happy to arrange this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "David Ward".

Mr David Ward FRCS

RCS Vice-President