



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Diary case advice

### Advice template

#### Details of the invitation

The Cabinet Secretary has been invited by Jan Williams, Chair Swansea Bay University Health Board, to visit Swansea Bay maternity and neonatal services. The visit would be at Singleton hospital and the meeting will be arranged around the Cabinet Secretary's availability.

#### Advice

It is recommended the Cabinet Secretary accepts the invite.

The maternity and neonatal services at Swansea Bay UHB were escalated to enhanced monitoring last December 2023, following a HIW unannounced inspection, concerns about the home birthing service, and the health board being an outlier with regards to MMBRACE audit data. This would be a good opportunity for the Cabinet Secretary to meet with staff and patients to understand some of the challenges the health board is facing and to be updated on the work that has already been undertaken and to receive feedback from patients.

The health board announced its Independent Review of maternity and neonatal services on the 12 December 2024. This review has been subject to considerable media scrutiny and challenge from a number of families related to engagement, the Chair and the terms of reference. Families on the 8 October 2024 announced their own review of available data and family experiences.

The re-opening of the midwife-led birth centre at Neath Port Talbot Hospital took place on Monday, 16 September, and welcomed their first baby within 24 hours of opening. The reintroduction of their home birth service is scheduled to commence from Monday 21 October 2024.

The health board has invested £750,000 and recruited 35 hospital-based and community staff to support the reopening of both services, offering families a wider choice of how and where to have their babies.

If the advice is to accept, please confirm the priority: Routine – when the Cabinet Secretary's diary allows

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