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Via Email to;

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Date: 06 09 2018

Our ref: 24323

Dear Alyson

RE: Ligature points in mental health wards/units

Many thanks for your letter dated the 17 August 2018 in relation to ligature points and people that maybe at risk of suicide.

The area of the assessment of ligature points and subsequent action taken by Health Boards and Independent Providers of healthcare is routinely considered within all our inspections of mental health wards. The assessment of the ligature risk of the ward environment is key in the management of patients that may exhibit suicidal and self harm thoughts and behaviours. Additionally, part of the inspection process is to consider risk management plans to ensure that they are appropriate and robust and also refer to the environmental risks that have been identified.

Where risks have been identified Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) considers the management plan that has been put into place, including looking at the levels of enhanced direct patient observations.

Healthcare inspectorate Wales (HIW) would not expect a similar level of ligature point assessments on a general ward. However, HIW would expect that the risk of suicide and self harm to individual patients has been risk assessed and appropriately documented upon admission and if a risk has been identified then appropriate action has been taken. Where a significant risk has been identified HIW would expect appropriate measures to be put into place and these may include enhanced observation of the patient.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gwirio bod pobl yng Nghymru
yn derbyn gofal da

Checking people in Wales are
receiving good care

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government
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Tel / Ffôn 0300 062 8163
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Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Chamberlain
Chief Executive
Healthcare Inspectorate Wales

*Cc. Jane Dale HIW Clinical Director
Alun Jones HIW Deputy CEO*

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