



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/03889/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

13 July 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 8 June regarding the Petition P-05-974- Ensure the technology of prosthetic limbs provided within the Welsh NHS is equal to the rest of the UK.

In Wales, NHS Prosthetic and Amputee Rehabilitation services are delivered in-house by three specialist Artificial Limb and Appliance Centres (ALACs) located in Cardiff, Swansea and Wrexham. The service is centrally commissioned by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) on behalf of the seven local health boards in Wales. WHSSC has a service specification policy for Prosthetic and Amputee Rehabilitation CP 89 (please see link below).

<http://www.whssc.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/1119/CP89%20Prosthetic%20and%20Amputee%20Rehab%20Services%20Service%20Spec.pdf>

Enhanced prosthetics, including microprocessor knee prostheses, are funded for veterans resident in Wales with service attributable injuries in accordance with the Specialised Services Policy *War Veterans – Enhanced Prosthetic Provision* (please see link below).

<http://www.whssc.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/1119/CP49%20War%20Veteran%20Policy%20v1.0.pdf>

WHSSC undertake an annual process to determine the provision of specialist prosthetics services based on evidence of benefit, assessed against specific criteria. WHSSC again considered the provision of microprocessor knee prostheses for civilians as part of their annual review this year. At present microprocessor knee prostheses are not routinely provided for civilians. However, officials remain in regular communication with WHSSC to ensure evidence is available to inform their commissioning decisions.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I would like to remind the committee that if an individual's needs cannot be managed within the agreed range of equipment, and the prosthetic and amputee clinical team believe there are exceptional grounds for providing equipment outside of range, then an Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) can be submitted to WHSSC. This request is done by clinicians on behalf of their patient under the 'All Wales Policy for Making Decisions on Individual Patient Funding Requests (IPFR)'.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services