



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1206
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/12451/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

12 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 10 September about the Petition P-06-1206 regarding Reviewing Welsh General Practice Access standards in light of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous pressure on the whole health and social care system and I am extremely thankful to the profession and all practice staff for their agile and innovative response in being able to continue to provide care to our most vulnerable in society.

A letter was sent to all GPs in Wales on 2 March 2021 which acknowledged that the past year has not provided a true platform on how the current access standards have improved access. We agreed to extend the funding for a further year, standards to 31 March 2022, to allow the measures to embed and a true assessment made of how effective the standards have been in improving access for all.

Currently, 76% of all GP practices in Wales have achieved all of the GMS in-hours access standards, compared to 65% last year. This is a great achievement in continuing to improve primary care access for communities across Wales.

The Access Standards, including any amendments made, are measured and funded as part of the GMS contract and as such form part of annual negotiations between Welsh Government, GPC Wales and NHS Wales. Tripartite contract negotiations commenced in July and are ongoing and I will be making a statement once they conclude.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Minister for Health and Social Services