

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
**Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg**  
**Minister for Education and Welsh Language**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1230  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11596/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
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18 November 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 5 November and for giving me the opportunity to give my initial views on a petition to install a defibrillator at every school in Wales for the public to access.

I recognise how effective defibrillators can be and the impact they can make in terms of survival in the event of a cardiac arrest. Early Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and prompt use of a defibrillator can increase a person's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest. The Welsh Government wants to see good coverage of defibrillators across the country, as well as more people who feel confident to use them and to undertake CPR. To achieve this, the Welsh Government published our Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Plan and formed the Save a Life Cymru Partnership. We have provided funding to the Save a Life Cymru campaign, which is working with organisations across Wales to raise awareness of the importance of CPR training and the use of defibrillators through the 'Touch Someone's Life' campaign. Part of this work concerns the current and future management of defibrillators; as currently defibrillators are purchased by a range of organisations, including charities and community groups.

Whilst it could be appropriate for defibrillators to be based outside school buildings, this might not always be the best option and I believe that it is more important that this equipment is based in an area identified locally as the most easily accessible to the public.

In addition, mapping of defibrillators is very important to ensure that those who need them can find them quickly. This is why I welcome action to encourage communities and organisations which already have defibrillators to register them on [The Circuit](#) and I am pleased to see that more than 5,420 are registered. Just under 50 per cent of these defibrillators are registered with guardians who make sure they are ready for use with regular checks on batteries and pads. There is an online mapping tool which can be publically accessed here:

<https://111.wales.nhs.uk/LocalServices/default.aspx?s=DefibrillatorLocations&locale=en>.

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Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

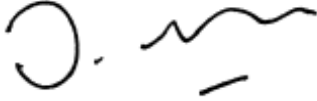
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Finally, I am pleased to note that a further £500,000 is being made available this year for the purchase of more defibrillators across Wales for community groups and organisations. The application process for applying for one of the Welsh Government funded defibrillators is now open and further details can be found at: <https://gov.wales/apply-for-a-community-public-access-defibrillator>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

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