



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1217  
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/14657/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee

6 January 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your further letter of 8 December regarding petition no. P-06-1217 about opening one-stop medical hubs and clinics for people with Long COVID.

In accordance with NICE guidelines, every health board in Wales has developed integrated, multidisciplinary rehabilitation services for people with Long COVID. These services provide an integrated assessment of both physical and mental health symptoms and difficulties and a treatment programme or advice as required. Local, integrated referral pathways between primary and community care and diagnostic investigations, rehabilitation services, specialist services and specialist mental health services are in place across Wales for people who require them. The integrated primary and community care services are led by general medical practitioners and secondary care services are led by a doctor or consultant with the relevant skills.

NICE guidelines also recommend the sharing of knowledge, skills and training between services to help practitioners in the community provide assessments and interventions. The NHS in Wales has a Long COVID Community of Practice group, which includes leads from every health board working together to standardise care and share knowledge and learning. In addition, the Institute of Clinical Science and Technology (ICST) have developed and rolled out a Long COVID digital guideline to provide education, training and summarise new research to help health professionals in Wales increase their expertise and skill in treating Long COVID.

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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.

As mentioned in my previous letter sent to you in October, over the summer I announced a £5m package to support the Adferiad (Recovery) Programme, which supports those experiencing ongoing effects from a COVID-19 infection. My officials were asked to review this programme on a six monthly basis and we are expecting to receive reports from health boards on their long COVID services early in the new year. We have also asked health boards to provide their recommendations for future service delivery, as it remains key that our services can change and adapt based on learning from experience and the latest research and evaluation.

The role of research is critical in shaping new treatments and therapies, as well as improving services for those suffering from Long COVID. Through Health and Care Research Wales, Welsh Government is working closely with UK research funders, namely the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), who have during 2020 and 2021 funded 19 studies on Long COVID including immunological studies, evaluations of therapies and self-help tools. In November 2021, all researchers of the 19 studies met to share information of the research underway, and NIHR and devolved nations were present. The outputs will be shared with UK policy and practice colleagues over 2022-23.

I hope you find this information helpful.

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