



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1242  
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/14731/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

18 January 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 13 December regarding Petition P-06-1242 Improve Endometriosis Healthcare in Wales.

I understand endometriosis is a condition which affects a significant number of women and, as the petition from Ms Hales highlights, the impact on quality of life can be huge and diagnosis can take a significant period of time. I am also aware that, in spite of efforts to change things, there can still be a lack of understanding of endometriosis among some health professionals and that current provision sometimes falls short of what we, and service users, might expect.

Health boards have a responsibility to deliver high quality gynaecology services and it is vital they provide a robust and effective pathway, which includes early diagnosis, for the management of endometriosis in accordance with NICE guidance. The NICE guidance provides a clear pathway which lists the symptoms of endometriosis and directs healthcare professionals as to when a woman should be referred to a gynaecology service for an ultrasound or gynaecology opinion. Welsh Government officials wrote to health boards in August 2018 seeking assurance that services were being delivered in line with the NICE guidance on endometriosis and all health boards confirmed compliance.

The Women's Health Implementation Group (WHIG) was set up in March 2018 as a ministerially-directed group to consider reports into the use of synthetic tape and mesh sheets for stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, endometriosis and fecal incontinence. Since its establishment, WHIG has been allocated £1m a year to support its activities. This funding has been used to establish a network of pelvic health and wellbeing coordinators in each health board, who are already playing a vital role in addressing interlinking issues across areas of women's pelvic health and supporting women and sign posting them to appropriate services, including physiotherapy and pain management where appropriate.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

[Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales)

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.

More recently it has also allowed for the recruitment of a network of specialist endometriosis nurses in each health board to develop national pathways to help to reduce diagnostic times across Wales and again ensure women with the condition are fully supported whilst awaiting or undergoing treatment. The WHIG has continued to work with health boards to ensure the endometriosis nurse resource is was fully introduced and a Community of Practice is established across Wales.

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