



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

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Mr Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
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**Ein cyf / Our ref:** GH/FG/DL/CE22-427/3091

**Eich cyf / Your ref:**

**☎:** 01745 448788 ext 6364

**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** [REDACTED]

**E-bost / Email:** [REDACTED]

**Dyddiad / Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Sent via E-mail:

[petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales)

Dear Jack

**RE: Petition P-06-1242 Improve Endometriosis Healthcare in Wales**

Thank you for your invitation to respond to the Petition to Improve Endometriosis Healthcare in Wales. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in providing this response.

The Health Board is committed to pursuing improvements in the provision of endometriosis healthcare in North Wales. We have set out below how we are seeking to improve services, changes made to date and our future plans:

- In response to the Welsh Government Endometriosis Task and Finish Group Report 2018, the Health Board undertook a review of endometriosis services within North Wales, benchmarking services against the NICE Guidance. A service specification and clinical pathway was developed which was signed off in January 2021.
- A Pelvic Health Co-ordinator (Nurse Lead) 0.40 wte has been appointed and we are currently recruiting a Consultant to the post of Benign Lead for Gynaecology, following the retirement of the previous post holder. The objectives of the Pelvic Health Co-ordinator team include the planning and delivery of robust endometriosis services for North Wales, in order to ensure that all the recommendations of the 2018 report are addressed.
- We have appointed two Endometriosis Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) who will provide services for all sites across North Wales. The CNS` commenced in post in February 2022 and are currently undergoing a period of induction and training. Their job description is aligned to the national Endometriosis CNS job description. The CNS` form part of the network of Endometriosis CNS across Wales, thereby ensuring that CNS led services are consistent across all of Wales.

- A Consultant job planning exercise is currently underway to identify a named Consultant Endometriosis Lead for each respective site in East, Central and West of the Health Board. This will ensure that, working with the respective CNS` other allied health professionals such as specialist physiotherapists, these clinical teams can provide a robust and accessible pathway for patients in North Wales, enabling access to timely diagnosis and management.
- Currently, we commission tertiary level care for patients with complex endometriosis from the Wirral University Teaching Hospital. We recognise the absence of endometriosis specialists in North Wales and are endeavouring to rectify this and provide services closer to home for our population. We have agreed a three year plan which will provide three diagnostic endometriosis units (one at each site in East, Central and West) and one Specialist Endometriosis Centre in North Wales. We have recently recruited two British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (BSGE) accredited Specialist Endometriosis Consultants to support the training and upskilling of Gynaecologists in North Wales to increase skills in minimal access surgery to support the development of a BSGE specialist centre, as well as increasing minimal access surgery for other non-endometrioses conditions. The delivery of this plan will allow the opportunity for specialist endometriosis care to be provided in North Wales, as well as increasing the overall number of Specialist Endometriosis Consultants in Wales.
- We have established a Women's Health Implementation Group (WHIG), which aligns with the national WHIG Executive, thereby ensuring that services in North Wales are aligned to the national agenda for Womens Health. The BCUHB WHIG will both direct and monitor service priorities in North Wales, which includes the delivery of endometriosis services.
- Our Women`s Directorate have a very strong service user forum called "Gynae Voices", membership of which includes representatives of Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales (FTWW), who have been instrumental in the endometriosis work undertaken across Wales. FTWW members have been included in the BCUHB Endometriosis Task and Finish Group and in the development of the business case for the changes outlined above, with FTWW members invited to provide testimonies in support of the need for improved services. We are committed to service user engagement and co-production ensuring that the local population continue to inform service design and delivery within North Wales.

I trust that this response demonstrates our ongoing commitment to improving the services and outcomes for the population of North Wales living with endometriosis.



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gill Harris'.

**Gill Harris**  
**Dirprwy Prif Weithredwr**  
**Deputy Chief Executive**