

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

16 May 2022

Dear Jack

### Petition P-06-1241 Welsh Government to meet with a wider audience of unpaid carers

Thank you for your letter dated 2 March 2022 regarding the above petition, in which you asked the Health and Social Care Committee if there will be any scope in the future for the petitioner to engage in any inquiries or evidence-gathering sessions on this issue.

As a member of this Committee, you will of course be aware that support and services for unpaid carers is one of the areas of priority identified in our [strategy for the Sixth Senedd](#).

Where relevant throughout our work we consider issues relating to unpaid carers, and adopt a range of approaches to hearing from individual carers directly as well as from relevant representative organisations. I have set out some examples below.

Inquiry on hospital discharge and its impact on patient flow through hospitals

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On [Thursday 10 March](#) we took formal oral evidence from an unpaid carer with first hand experience of delayed transfers of care alongside a representative of Alzheimer's Society Cymru. Hearing directly from an individual with lived experience helped to illustrate the issues and the impact on individual carers and families very clearly.

Inquiry on the impact of the waiting times backlog on people in Wales who are waiting for diagnosis or treatment

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We conducted in depth interviews with people affected by the waiting times backlog, including some unpaid carers. The findings of the interviews are available on the [Committee's website](#). We also took

formal oral evidence from the Wales Carers Alliance on Thursday 2 December. We subsequently included a chapter on unpaid carers in our report, highlighting the essential role they play within the health and social care sector and making recommendations relating to supporting carers' financial resilience and promoting their involvement in care and treatment planning.

#### Inquiry on mental health inequalities

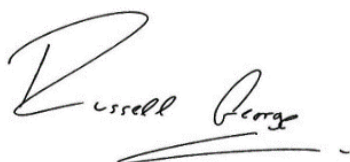
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To inform the first stage of our inquiry into mental health inequalities, we held a series of focus groups, including one with young carers in Newport. A summary of the focus groups is available on the Committee's website. We have also received written evidence both from carers organisations and from a number of individuals who are carers. We will be holding an informal stakeholder discussion event in June focusing on mental health inequalities and neurodiversity, which will include representatives with lived experience as carers or family members of people who have neurodiverse conditions.

Should the petitioner wish to contribute to any future pieces of work the Committee undertakes, further details will be available on the Committee's website and promoted across the Senedd's social media accounts. If the petitioner would like to be added to our mailing list, they can request this by emailing seneddhealth@senedd.wales.

We hope this information is helpful to the petitioner, and we look forward to continue to include this important topic where appropriate in the Committee's work for the duration of this Senedd.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.