



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Russell George
Chair,
Health and Social Care Committee

SeneddHealth@senedd.wales

15 July 2022

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your letter dated 11 July requesting an update on the proposed Optometry Bill. I welcome your continued interest in this matter.

A decision has been taken not to proceed with an Optometry Bill to further develop primary care optometry services. Whilst we are proceeding as planned to expand and enhance primary care optometry services, this can be achieved using existing regulation-making powers in the NHS (Wales) Act 2006.

Proceeding in this way will enable the policy objectives to be achieved as quickly as possible and meet the aims of the Welsh Government's *Future Approach for Optometry Services* in Wales, underpinning optometry policy commitments and the wider national reform of primary care, *A Healthier Wales* and the Programme for Government. A key priority is to move services, where appropriate, from secondary care hospital departments to primary care optometry to reduce hospital backlog and release consultant and GP capacity.

Yours sincerely

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.