

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

14 November 2022

Dear Jack

PetitionP-06-1242 - Improve Endometriosis Healthcare in Wales

Thank you for your letter dated 27 October 2022 regarding the above petition, in which you asked whether we intend to do any work on this subject area in the near future.

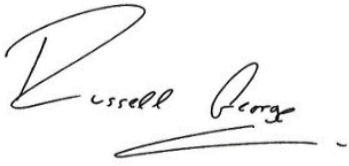
The lack of a specific 'women and girls' health plan in Wales was highlighted by a number of respondents to our consultation on priorities for the Sixth Senedd, and the Committee subsequently identified women's health as a priority issue for consideration during the course of this Senedd.

We held an initial evidence session with key stakeholders on 10 March 2022 to explore the evidence for a women and girls' health plan and what it should include. Following this, we wrote to the Minister for Health and Social Services summarising the key issues discussed with stakeholders, and raising a number of points for consideration in developing the women and girls' health quality statement and plan. This included acknowledgement of the appointment of specialist endometriosis nurses in each health board across Wales, and a question to the Minister about whether her commitment to improvement women's health services included improving the availability of specialist services to meet women's health needs across Wales.

At present, we do not have any specific plans to look at endometriosis services, although the Committee does regularly review its forward work programme. We did, however, consider issues relating to endometriosis waiting times in our work on the impact of the NHS waiting times backlog, particularly in relation to paying for diagnostic procedures. We highlighted evidence on this issue from Endometriosis UK in our April 2022 report *Waiting well? The impact of the waiting times backlog on people in Wales*.

Your letter will be included on the agenda for our meeting on 17 November 2022, when Members will be asked to formally note it, further drawing attention to the petition and the important issues it raises.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Russell George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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