

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/00504/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

7 September 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your request to receive an update to my previous correspondence, dated 10 January 2023, regarding considerations of introducing a national register for unpaid carers.

My previous letter outlined work undertaken by officials to explore the viability of introducing a carers' register. It also clarified that it would not be possible for Welsh Government to access data held on individual carers by local authorities or health boards without securing the agreement of each individual to utilise their data for other purposes. This would be costly and time-consuming. Consequently, unpaid carers would be required to additionally sign up to a Welsh Government register. Local authorities, health boards and national carers' organisations would continue to hold their separate lists. Some people may not see the value in signing up to more than one list and a register generated in this way could not be used to collect current and accurate data on unpaid carers in Wales.

While the list could be used to disseminate information from Welsh Government to those signed up, we could not guarantee it would reach more carers than those already signed up to other existing data bases. The matter was discussed at the Ministerial Advisory group for Unpaid Carers on 16 March

Since this time, officials have compiled a list of the co-ordinators for all separate carers' lists held. Via this mechanism, we can reach all unpaid carers signed up to these lists.

We have also received information on year one costs to establish and maintain a national list from Digital Health Communities Wales. This would be between £100,000 and £237,000, depending on uptake and the level of security afforded to users. A major publicity/ awareness campaign would also be required to maximise the number of unpaid carers registering on the database, at further cost.

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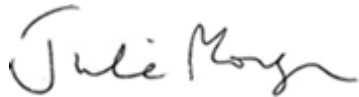
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

You are aware of the significant financial pressures we are facing in the 2023-24 budget, and to continue preparations for the 2024-25 budget round. Funding was not yet identified for this project. Given the reduced utility of the register as initially envisaged, and the high levels of funding to establish and run it, it may be difficult to consider this a justifiable expense at this time. Officials have engaged with Carers Wales and Carers' Trust Wales to make them aware of this situation. There was acknowledgement that a register, as described, would not bring the added value anticipated and a view that other pressing needs of unpaid carers were of higher priority for their organisations.

A definitive decision has not yet been made as I wish to bring it back to the Ministerial Advisory Group on 25 September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan', written in a cursive style.

Julie Morgan AS/MS

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Deputy Minister for Social Services