

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1209
Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/00641/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
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1 November 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your correspondence on 6 October, regarding petition P-06-1209 on a national list of all unpaid carers. I wish to provide an update to my previous letter on this subject, dated 7 September. As anticipated in this letter, I presented the exploratory work and costings involved in the creation of a national list to the Ministerial Advisory Group on Unpaid Carers on 25 September.

I outlined the GDPR restrictions on the sharing of data from lists held by third sector and statutory agencies and the limitations inherent in a scheme that would require unpaid carers to be signed up to more than one list. I left the meeting to allow open discussion by the advisory group. I was subsequently informed by Alwyn Jones, Chair, that the group did not consider that establishing a register as outlined would be of significant value or benefit to unpaid carers.

The petitioner has queried the costs of the collation of contact details for unpaid carer list holders in local authorities, health boards and carers organisations. This allows us to have Welsh Government information disseminated to all carers on lists across Wales. This was one of the ambitions of a single national list. The collation work was undertaken by officials at no additional cost.

The petitioner has queried the willingness of some list holders to disseminate Welsh Government information. We are not aware of any list holder who would not be willing to do so.

We have committed to reviewing how we are delivering against our strategic priorities for unpaid carers and establishing a working group reporting to the Ministerial Advisory Group. Promoting carer awareness and self-identification by carers is a major aspect of our current strategy, delivered by national carer organisations.

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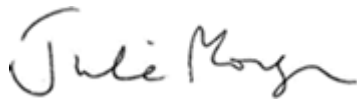
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

The petitioner mentions a carers card they think could be the basis for collaboration to achieve a national list. My officials will consider this alongside other schemes that are being looked at. Unpaid carers having a card to identify themselves and the valuable role they provide could be a positive opportunity. My officials are currently looking into these schemes in partnership with our third sector partners. There are issues to consider regarding the appropriate body to promote schemes, which may have a commercial element and verification of unpaid carer status.

This is part of our ongoing work and I will continue to work closely with the Ministerial Advisory Group to ensure we are providing the most effective and valued support to unpaid carers.

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