



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1384  
Ein cyf/Our ref: EM/03409/23

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
[petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales)

26 April 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter about Petition P-06-1384: Introduce legislation where it is mandatory to have a defibrillator in workplaces and sport clubs. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The issue has been raised by the Petitions Committee previously and the Welsh Government's position remains unchanged – we do not believe introducing legislation to mandate the provision of defibrillators is the best way to increase the number of devices that are available. Legislation could be counter-productive, difficult to enforce, and add unnecessary layers of bureaucracy.

We continue to encourage greater awareness of defibrillators. This includes how the public can use them, where they are located, supporting increased availability within our communities, and ensuring they are registered on the defibrillator mapping system known as The Circuit.

Currently more than 8,000 defibrillators across Wales are registered on The Circuit. This number has doubled since 2019 and continues to increase.

The Welsh Government worked in partnership with the Wales Cardiovascular Network, the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, and third sector organisations to develop the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Plan, which was published in June 2017. The plan is designed to increase the survival rate following an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest by optimising the four links in the cardiac arrest chain of survival – early recognition and activation of the emergency response system; early CPR; rapid defibrillation and advanced life support within a hospital setting.

In January 2019 we established the Save a Life Cymru programme to further promote and optimise the cardiac arrest chain of survival by creating awareness of the importance of bystander intervention and to transform CPR and defibrillator access. Save a Life Cymru has been instrumental in encouraging the installation, use and support of public access defibrillators by appointing community co-ordinators for every area of Wales. We are the first nation in the UK to have created these influential community roles.

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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.

We fully support making lifesaving equipment, such as defibrillators, more accessible in communities across Wales. We believe in adopting a supportive approach to make sure defibrillators become established and normalised across Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services