



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1444
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/05736/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru

Petitions@senedd.wales

03 July 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 May on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-06-1444 *Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd*.

Health boards are responsible for delivering services for women in their community. We recognise that there are improvements to be made in menopause care, treatment and support and greater consistency in those services across Wales.

As you will be aware, the NHS is developing a 10-year Women's Health Plan which will detail how it intends to realise the ambitions set out within the Welsh Government's [Quality Statement for Women's and Girls' Health](#). The plan will aim to address existing inequities in provision or barriers to access, taking a life course approach to ensure the provision of good quality health services for women throughout their lifetime.

In July 2022, the Welsh Government established the All-Wales Menopause Task and Finish Group to advise on improvements in equitable access to and standards of menopause care across Wales. The group's final report was published in February 2023 and made a range of recommendations to improve equity, access, quality, staff training, public awareness and research. These will be taken forward as part of the Women's Health Plan.

My officials have contacted Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board about its menopause service provision. It has confirmed that the majority of women in North Wales access advice about menopause-related symptoms, including HRT prescriptions from primary care services. All gynaecology consultants across the three hospital sites in North Wales see women with menopause-related symptoms in their general gynaecology clinics.

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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.

Specialist menopause clinics are run by the three menopause specialists and they see people with more complex menopause-related issues, such as multiple treatment failures, primary ovarian insufficiency, complex medical problems, high-risk cancer genes or hormone dependent cancer and testosterone initiation. These clinics are based at Deeside and Wrexham Maelor Hospital. A mix of face-to-face and virtual slots are available based on patient choice. This is in addition to e-advice for women via their GP practice.

The health board is reviewing job plans to enable the specialists to increase capacity to respond to demand. It is also exploring pilot virtual sessions with GPs to help provide specialist advice for women, closer to home, without the need for a referral into secondary care.

Yours sincerely,

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

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol