



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1493
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/11068/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

03 January 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Petition P-06-1493 Ensure diagnosis and treatment for people suffering from adverse Covid-19 vaccine side effects

Thank you for your letter of 6 December regarding the above petition.

I was sorry to read about the petitioner's prolonged ill health. Covid-19 vaccines are generally safe – more than 100m doses have been given in the UK, with billions of doses given worldwide and overall, any adverse effects are minor and short lived. Regrettably, a small number of those vaccinated may experience adverse effects that are more severe, persistent or have lasting effect.

All vaccines used in the UK have been approved as safe and effective by the independent expert organisation, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The vaccinations given already are helping to save lives and ease pressure on the NHS by reducing the severity of Covid-19 should people contract it.

The MHRA continually monitors safety during widespread use of any vaccine to ensure vaccines are performing as expected, to identify any new side effects that may arise, and to ensure the benefits continue to outweigh the risks. It issues weekly reports about the safety of Covid-19 vaccines. The latest report is available here: [Coronavirus vaccine - weekly summary of Yellow Card reporting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-vaccine-weekly-summary-of-yellow-card-reporting)

Side effects can be reported directly via the Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site. Anyone experiencing these side effects, can report the event directly: [Official MHRA side effect and adverse incident reporting site for coronavirus treatments and vaccines | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/coronavirus-side-effect-and-adverse-incident-reporting-site-for-coronavirus-treatments-and-vaccines)

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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.

In addition, those who have suffered from an adverse reaction may be eligible for a vaccine damage payment from a compensation scheme operated by the UK Government. Further information about this scheme, including eligibility and how to apply, can be found via this [link](#).

I understand researchers are working to understand if there is any potential connection between the Covid-19 vaccination and what is being referred to as Long Vax.

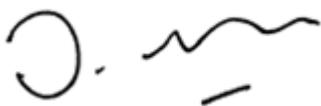
However, if anyone is experiencing symptoms similar to those experienced by people with Long Covid, regardless of what may have caused them, I would encourage them to use the integrated community rehabilitation services established in all health boards via the Adferiad (Recovery) programme.

We launched the Adferiad programme in June 2021 and invested £10m between 2021 and 2023. This was allocated to health boards which have developed community-focused integrated, multi-professional rehabilitation services, which allow for referral to specialist assessment where needed.

In March 2023, the then Minister for Health and Social Services announced an increase in annual funding for Adferiad services ([Written Statement: Adferiad Programme Update \(14 March 2023\) | GOV.WALES](#)). The increased funding has enabled health boards to widen access to Adferiad-funded services to people with other post-acute infection illness on a needs/symptom-led basis; this includes people with conditions such as ME/CFS and fibromyalgia, as well as those with persistent physical symptoms, but no confirmed diagnosis.

We remain committed to continuing to support people with and recovering from the long-term effects of Covid-19.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Miles', with a stylized flourish.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care