

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a
Gofal Cymdeithasol**

—
**Health and Social Care
Committee**

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Judith Paget CBE

NHS Wales Chief Executive

Director General of Health and Social Services

13 March 2025

Dear Judith

I have been contacted by members of the former All Wales Diabetes Patient Reference Group (AWDPFG) asking the Committee to establish by what mechanism patient opinion is being sought, recorded and shared by the NHS Executive in Wales. They have also shared with me copies of your correspondence with them.

According to its members, the AWDPFG was active for a number of years and commended by healthcare professionals for its insight into the everyday issues facing people living with diabetes in Wales. It was therefore surprised to learn, in October 2024, that it would be stood down and a new Diabetes Patient Forum (DPF) would be established as a subsidiary of the National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes.

In your response to the Group you state that, as part of the new national arrangements for the NHS Executive and its clinical networks, there is not a requirement for each network to host a separate national patient reference group.

I note from the correspondence that the new Diabetes Patient Forum has been paused as a result of concerns raised by patient members about the terms of reference and code of conduct, and that the patient voice is now being sought and captured through collaboration with Diabetes UK Cymru and other Third Sector organisations.

I would be grateful if you could clarify:

- how exactly the patient voice is being captured in the absence of a formal patient representative group;
- whether you are confident that this arrangement is sufficiently robust to capture the full range of patient voices;
- what work is taking place to resolve the issues surrounding the terms of reference and code of conduct so the Diabetes Patient Forum can begin its work;
- what role former members of the AWDPFG will have in the new arrangements.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a horizontal line underneath the name.

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.