

**Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Grŵp Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a'r
Blynyddoedd Cynnar / Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru**

**Director General Health, Social Care & Early Years Group / NHS
Wales Chief Executive**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

10 April 2025

Dear Mr George

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2025 regarding how the NHS Executive's Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes will seek input from people affected by diabetes.

You have noted my response of 2 February 2025, which explains that the NHS Executive's clinical networks require a means of engaging with patients on specific pieces of work, which can be done in a variety of ways. Each network can determine how best to do this, and the Diabetes Network has chosen to form a close collaboration with national charities such as Diabetes UK and Breakthrough Type 1. Representatives from these charities participate in the Network's Clinical Reference Group so that opportunities to engage with people affected by diabetes can be identified and taken when needed.

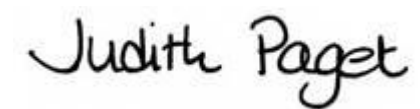
I am aware the Network also recently sought input from two patient representatives taking part in the Network's Peer Educator Project Steering Group. Additionally, the Network has the option of involving patients through its partnership with Public Health Wales, who are leading the national Tackling Diabetes Together Programme.

It is sensible in my view to make use of existing organisations and programmes that have access to large numbers of people affected by diabetes, as this will ensure a broad and diverse range of views can be accessed. The specific nature of the interaction and its frequency will depend on the matter at hand, ranging from commenting on documents to making suggestions on proposals. This ensures that a range of mechanism can be employed to seek patient views in influencing the specific products of the national clinical networks in a tangible and meaningful way.

There is no requirement for the Network to be routinely capturing patient experience on service delivery, as this is a matter for health boards to engage with patients, carers and communities at a local level. Health boards are responsible for monitoring this experience and addressing concerns that are raised through their own local processes. As a result, there is no expectation that the Network will maintain a standing patient forum.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Paget". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Judith Paget CBE