



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1570
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/00029/26

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

12 February 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 6 January about Petition P-06-1570 Introduce Martha's Law in Wales to guarantee patients and families right to a second opinion.

On 3 October 2024, the Welsh Government published a Welsh Health Circular (WHC) [Adopting a patient and family-initiated escalation approach](#). This sets out our expectations for health boards to implement a consistent escalation approach – this is similar to Martha's Rule and enables individuals and their families to request immediate help and advice if they are worried about deteriorating health.

In Wales, this is known as "Call4Concern". It builds on learning from existing pilots in Wales, international models, such as Ryan's Rule in Australia, and aligns with the principles of Martha's Rule in NHS England.

The decision to adopt the name Call4Concern was taken to honour the legacy of not only the Mills family but other families who have championed the importance of listening to families and patients. This does not diminish the vital contribution of the Mills family, whose tireless advocacy has played a significant role in progressing this work.

Significant progress has already been made in 2025 through the implementation of standardised early warning scores, which support the early recognition and consistent management of acute deterioration and potential sepsis across healthcare settings in Wales.

Call4Concern is expected to be rolled out in all inpatient settings this year with full implementation expected between September 2026 and March 2027. Once fully implemented, it will be available in all inpatient settings providing adult, paediatric, neonatal and maternity services in Wales.

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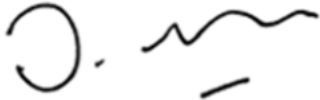
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

A further Welsh Health Circular, issued on 8 January 2026: [Call4Concern: timelines and responsibilities](#) sets out the clear expectations for health boards regarding leadership, delivery timescales and accountability for implementation.

The Welsh Government is firmly committed to strengthening patient safety and delivering better healthcare outcomes for the people of Wales, ensuring patients and families are listened to and can act promptly when they have concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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