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Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-156
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05796/11

William Powell AM

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19th
August 2011

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 14 July, written on behalf of the Petitions Committee, about the need for an effective policy on sleep disorders such as sleep apnoea.

The provision of sleep apnoea services is the responsibility of Local Health Boards, which are expected to put in place arrangements for services for their local populations. LHBs recently submitted returns indicating the extent to which they were complying with the Service Development and Commissioning Directives. The results indicated that they were complying with 95 per cent of the key actions detailed in the Chronic Respiratory Conditions Directive.

I am aware the provision of sleep services varies across Wales. In recognition of this, an All Wales Sleep Apnoea Working Group was established, made up of respiratory consultants delivering sleep apnoea services in NHS Wales, and produced a proposal for minimum clinical standards for sleep apnoea in Wales. This was issued jointly by the Welsh Government and the Respiratory National Services Advisory Group in February 2011 to assist LHBs in planning for improved sleep services.

Regards
Lesley

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