

P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 05.03.2014

Dear Kayleigh,

Thank you for the response to the petition.

Please can you convey the following to Mr Powell.

I can confirm that I have now had a chance to relay the response to the very many interested parties within Wales. To say that we are extremely disappointed but completely unsurprised is an understatement. The FACT that men in England can access over 40 robotic NHS (free of charge) centres for early prostatic cancer surgery is unequivocal. They have a patient choice to do so.

The FACT that no men in Wales have such a choice is damning. The FACT that Welsh men are paying anything from £13,000 for this service in English NHS centres is an indictment on the Welsh system. We are not talking about a rare condition here. The FACT is that it is very common and to potentially minimise the risk of impotence, incontinence and depression is surely in the best interests of the patient, their family and society in terms of personal, social and employment relationships.

I could of course go on but I have written to the current health minister and indeed his predecessor with the detail of the situation. The FACT is that I have only ever received terse and obtuse answers from staff and NEVER from the minister to whom I addressed the papers. Another member of group has though received a response from the First Minister which was equally disappointing and dismissive. The one centre which will in time come to Cardiff will not be enough to treat all of the men in Wales who could benefit but it is a start. That said the way in which the disparate components of health delivery operate in Wales will probably mean inter health board payment constraints which will of course further impair the patient choice.

Kind regards Kevin

Professor K Davies MBE, RRC, TD

PhD, MA, RN, PGCE