

P-04-456 Dementia – This Could Happen to you – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 20.05.14

Hi Kayleigh,

Thanks for your email.

The relevance of the documentation I've sent on to you surrounding my petition, and of course the time factors involved in dealing with each individual petition data suggests to me that wading through all of the emails I have sent to you recently would be best left to you and your colleagues discretion as to what you feel are the prurient points to bring to the attention of the committee.

The real question is, do the politicians want to tackle the problem of the lack of consistency and Health Boards in Wales evading the decisions of the Courts in Coughlan, Pointon etc., by the use of Guidance that is difficult to challenge by way of judicial review in the Courts. Without the political will to tackle the problem the Health Boards the CCGs can continue to ration Continuing Health Care funding by stealth. Possibly with an ageing population and an increasing, press led and social media awareness of dementia, the electorate will start taking a great deal more interest in this rather obscure and complex area of health care law. Unfortunately in the meantime the culture which currently allows personnel to falsify records (see BBC NEWS bulletin from last week concerning the arrest of several nurses the the Bridgend area for this) will hardly be discouraged from manipulating the Continuing Health Care assessment system if the goal of achieving costs savings can be achieved with no risk of sanctions and little prospect of the families challenging decisions which rely on the 'professional judgement' of Continuing Health Care assessors. From my experience the manager of the local Spar would have been better placed to judge my Mother's eligibility.

Ideally I would like the petitions committee to see all of the emails. I do not want this issue to get kicked into the long grass. I, as well as others are unimpressed with what has been the changing of a few words to satisfy what they see as the dissatisfied aggressor. I recognize that some positive changes have been made and I hope that some of them are because of my petition. The health department appear to agree that the 'cognition' domain should not have had the 'severe' tick box removed which was instigated by Lesley Griffiths the former Health secretary, after public consultation. This does bring it back in line with the English version of

the Decision Support Tool, on the one category. This does not mean that they have made it any easier for anyone to be considered eligible for this funding, in fact they have further messed with the decision support tool so that other areas have been negatively impacted upon! Rather than a meaningless consultative process whereupon the charitable organizations etc., who were consulted were listened to, perhaps these opinions should not have been just considered and then largely ignored, but acted upon honestly and with integrity?

Thanks Kayleigh and

Kind regards,

Helen