

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-682
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00196/16

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

12 February 2016

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 January regarding petition P-04-682.

The loss of a child is heart-breaking and I share the Cook and Baldwin families' ambition to ensure future cases of type 1 diabetes in children and young people are identified at an early stage.

Our diabetes delivery plan was launched in 2013 and outlines our approach to diagnosing and treating diabetes. The plan aims to ensure GPs, practice nurses and school nurses are aware of type 1 diabetes and can identify its signs and symptoms. This action is being taken forward by health board diabetes delivery plans and the national diabetes implementation group, which is considering an awareness campaign for the coming year.

In respect of introducing routine screening for the condition, the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) provides independent, expert advice to all UK Ministers about national population screening. All population-based, pre-symptomatic screening programmes are developed and delivered using the best available evidence and are subject to regular review. Population screening programmes should only be offered where there is robust, high-quality evidence that screening will do more good than harm and be cost effective within the overall NHS budget. Sufficient evidence is required for conditions to be reviewed against the agreed criteria for the development of national screening programmes.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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.

The UK NSC has not made any recommendations in relation to screening for type 1 diabetes at any age, because unlike type 2 diabetes, the onset can be swift and is not therefore suitable to be detected by intermittent testing of individuals with no symptoms.

Prompt diagnosis once an individual shows signs of type 1 diabetes is a more effective approach. I have asked my officials to liaise with the all-Wales paediatric diabetes network in order to ensure all appropriate steps are being taken to ensure early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes in children and young people.

I will write to you again once this advice has been received.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark".

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

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