



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1242
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01074/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

31 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 8 March regarding Petition P-06-1242 Improve Endometriosis Healthcare in Wales.

I have noted the further comments raised by the Committee.

With regards to NHS Waiting Times, the £140m announced in August 2021 was invested through a recovery fund, to support local health boards and NHS Trusts to deliver safe services over the remainder of the year and treat the backlog of patients that has built up. It is for health boards to prioritise how best to use the funding to address the backlog of patients waiting, including gynaecology waiting lists.

As I stated in my previous correspondence, a network of specialist endometriosis nurses has been recruited in each health board and will develop national pathways and help reduce diagnostic times across Wales. The endometriosis nurses are actively spending time with patients in clinic and liaising with their Multi-Disciplinary Teams to improve the endometriosis service provision within their Health Boards. The nurses are working together across Wales to establish best practice and learn from each other and help shape a better future for the endometriosis pathways in Wales. We know the situation in Wales pre-covid was not where we want it to be and with the additional covid pressures, we have a demanding task on our hands, but one in which we are making inroads to resolve, which starts with funding for the endometriosis nurses and supporting them as they make a difference to clinical processes and spending time with patients to improve their quality of life.

In respect of specialist endometriosis services, health boards are responsible for determining the appropriate provision required to meet the needs of their local populations.

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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.

Where tertiary services are provided, I expect suitable conversations to take place on a regional basis to ensure appropriate funding arrangements exist and to enable pathways that provide equitable provision across the whole of Wales.

In addition, the Women's Health Implementation Group have developed a dedicated website for patients and the nurses to use. Endometriosis Cymru includes personal accounts from women across Wales and a symptom tracker which could become a diagnosis tool for patients and clinicians to speed up diagnosis and treatment.

Historically women's health services have not had equal treatment and women's voices have been ignored. I am determined that we raise the standards of all women's health services in Wales and this summer I will be publishing a Quality Statement setting out how that will be achieved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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