

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: Petition P-04-032
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00769/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

06 April 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March about the petition, P-04-032 Improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales. I note that you and the Petitions Committee have had sight of my letter to Dr Dai Lloyd, Chair of Health, Social Care and Sport Committee. I hope it conveys both the progress made to date and actions still in train.

My officials have sought updates from both the Welsh Neuromuscular Network (WNMN) and Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) in regards to the petitioner's additional queries.

In respect of the petitioners query relating to a national decision making forum, the Chief Executive Group, chaired by Andrew Goodall, Director General of Health and Social Services and Chief Executive, NHS Wales, is aware of the concerns. The group has asked that the WNMN liaise with the Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG) to seek a solution.

WHSSC instigated development of a clear strategy for specialised neurosciences services for patients, in order to set the direction for specialised services in this area. As neuromuscular services are not commissioned by WHSSC as they are predominantly delivered in primary and secondary care, they will not be covered by the WHSSC Commissioning Strategy for Specialised Neurosciences national review. The review has focused on the services that health boards have delegated to WHSSC to commission on their behalf, rather than disease specific services.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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.

Whilst I understand that these responses may not provide the assurances being sought, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that this issue remains high on the agenda. I have been advised that WHSSC will continue to work closely with the WNMN and NCIG to clarify referral and treatment pathways for the elements of the service they are responsible and that the Chief Executives Group and the NCIG will continue to receive regular updates.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport