



Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/05457/16

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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February 2018

Dear John,

I am pleased to take this opportunity to update the committee on the Welsh Government's response to petition P-05-724 – Rights to Primary Health Care in Welsh.

The petition was considered along with all the other responses to the consultation on the draft Welsh Language Standards (Health Sector) Regulations held between July and October 2016. In response to the concerns raised about primary care I have amended the Regulations so that, with the exception of standard 19 (a body making telephone calls), they now also apply to primary care services provided directly by local health boards. This will provide a clearer framework for the local health boards.

I do not consider it reasonable or proportionate to place standards on local health boards that would make them responsible for failures to comply by independent primary care providers. I therefore consider, with the agreement of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, the most reasonable and proportionate way of placing Welsh language obligations on independent primary care providers is through the contractual arrangements between them and local health boards. This will ensure a consistent approach for all contractors and will create obligations which are enforceable by local health boards. Officials will start discussions with the contractors' representative bodies to agree the obligations in due course.

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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.

I have laid the Welsh Language Standards (No.7) Regulations 2018 before the Assembly today.

Yrs Sincerely
Eluned Morgan

Eluned Morgan AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning