

Health and Social Care Committee

HSC(4)-13-12 paper 8

Correspondence from the Petitions Committee: Petition P-04-359 Problems with the NHS for the Deaf

Attached as an annex to this paper, please find attached correspondence from the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-359 Problems with the NHS for the Deaf.

Committee Service

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau Petitions Committee

Mark Drakeford AM
Chair, Health & Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Our ref: P-04-359

19 April 2012

Dear Mark

Petition: P-04-359 Problems with the NHS for the Deaf

The Petitions Committee has recently been considering a petition relating to problems experienced by NHS patients with hearing impairments. The petition called on the National Assembly 'to urge the Welsh Government to provide a better service for the hearing impaired (HI) in the NHS' and collected 68 signatures.

Supporting information submitted with the petition described the difficulties faced by a person with a hearing impairment when trying to book a GP or hospital appointment, or an interpreter and raised concerns regarding the lack of hearing loops in hospitals and the way in which hearing impaired patients in waiting rooms are called in to appointments.

The Committee wrote to the Minister for Health and Social Services on this issue. In her response, the Minister described the work that had been done on this issue and stated that a delivery plan would be available in the spring that would take forward the recommendations of the 'Accessible Healthcare for People with Sensory Loss in Wales' report that was launched on 9 January this year.

Given the work being done in this area, the Committee agreed to close the petition and to write to you to highlight the matter and ask that you keep a watching brief on the work being done on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Powell". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

William Powell
Committee Chair