

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05047/18

David Rowlands AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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23 January 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 19 December regarding Petition P-05-817 seeking specialist prosthetics for child amputees and sharing correspondence from the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC). I note you are also writing to WHSSC to seek further information about its review of the prosthetic and amputee rehabilitation services specification.

A wide range of prosthetic equipment is provided by the NHS in Wales, but specialist sports prosthetics for children are not currently funded. If a person's clinical team believes there are exceptional reasons for providing other equipment an Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) can be made.

The Welsh Government recognises that giving young people access to specialist sports prosthetics would enable them to participate in sport and other activities. We realise there is more work to do to make this a reality in Wales and will be discussing this further with WHSSC.

In response to your question regarding the use of 3D printing, this is not currently used by NHS Wales services for the production of prostheses. There is currently insufficient evidence about the use of 3D printing. It is something we may consider in the future as research in this area develops in terms of both clinical and cost effectiveness.

Yours sincerely,

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.