

Julie Morgan AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-771
Ein cyf/Our: ref MA-P/JM/2435/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24 July 2019

Dear Janet,

At my appearance at Committee on 5 March I explained the change of approach I am introducing to the transfer to local authorities' social services of the support some disabled people in Wales received through the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG). That was to provide those people dissatisfied with the outcome of their care assessment with an independent assessment so as to have a second opinion. I am now writing to provide an update on implementing that change.

I attach a copy of a Written Statement I issued on 18 July which contains such an update. From this you will see the number of people to date who have expressed an interest in having an independent care assessment. You will also note we have an appointed an organisation to recruit the social workers to undertake these and to manage the process. This is ICS Assessment Services Ltd who has significant experience in both social care and care assessments, having worked extensively with a range of local authorities across Wales and England. Officials are now working with representatives of ICS and local authorities to agree the practicalities of undertaking these so that they can commence quickly.

As I say in my statement, I fully acknowledge that establishing these arrangements has taken some time. However, it is imperative we put in place properly considered arrangements. The "#Save the WILG Campaign" has been supportive of the approach I am taking, as we share a common interest in seeing changes implemented properly.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morgan AC/AM
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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.