

P-05-771 Reconsider the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant and support disabled people to live independently, Correspondence – Petitioner to Chair, 29.08.19

27/08/2019

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders

Many thanks for giving me the right to reply to the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services latest statement regarding an update to future funding arrangements for former recipients of the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG).

Since this statement was released on July 18th 2019, there has been considerable further developments. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, I am still awaiting my independent reassessment, although by the time you meet to discuss this petition it is hoped that this will finally be completed. It has been a long time coming, but I am satisfied that the rejuvenated Welsh Government – under the leadership of the dynamic new First Minister – have been working around the clock to maintain independent living for all.

Back in February, #SaveWILG campaigners were delighted that the Welsh Government showed humanity and humility in accepting that people's ability to live independently should not be compromised by changes to the way their care and support is arranged and provided. This was a bold change of direction helped by the appointment of Julie Morgan as Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services who has kept WILG recipients updated and informed at every stage. It has been a welcome change to be working with Government and personnel that are actually prepared to listen to the voices of the disabled community in Wales and act accordingly.

It is regrettable that the independent assessments from ICS have not yet started. However, it was never going to be a speedy process to facilitate a number of independent assessments to those who requested them following the bureaucratic nightmare created by those who would not listen to #SaveWILG campaigners.

We would like to thank the Petitions Committee for their help and assistance throughout the #SaveWILG campaign. Our fight to maintain independent living for disabled people with high care and support needs continues. We will continue the #SaveWILG campaign until we are absolutely certain that justice has been served across the board. If the expected progress is not made, then you can expect to hear from us again, but based on our communication with the Welsh Government we are very hopeful that all will be ironed out in the not too distant future, with regard to WILG recipients.

Yours Sincerely,

Nathan Lee Davies
#SaveWILG Campaign