

Vaughan Gething MS

Minister for Health and Social Services

3 February 2021

Dear Minister

At its meeting on 10 March, the Committee will be taking evidence on the long term effects of COVID-19 (post-COVID syndrome or long COVID), as part of our inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, and its management, on health and social care in Wales. We will be hearing from a range of stakeholders, including people experiencing the longer term effects of COVID-19, a panel of academics and relevant health professionals.

In advance of this meeting, it would be helpful if you could provide us with an update on Welsh Government policy on managing long COVID, particularly:

1. Whether the Welsh Government has any plans to offer long COVID sufferers help at specialist centres, similar to the approach taken by NHS England;
2. How the Welsh Government intends to implement **NICE guidance on managing the long term effects of COVID-19**;
3. How the Welsh Government is working with health professionals to help assess, diagnose and treat sufferers, including those experiencing the mental health effects of COVID-19;
4. What funding will be available for long COVID services;
5. Whether the Welsh Government has undertaken any assessment of the potential implications of long COVID on the demand for social care services;
6. What consideration is the Welsh Government giving to the management of long COVID in social care settings (for example, the impact on staff returning to work, impact on unpaid carers);
7. Whether the Welsh Government has commissioned any research into long COVID, including details of the role and remit of the Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre;



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8. Whether the Welsh Government is aware of any work being undertaken by health boards to manage the long term effects of COVID-19, and what role will the Welsh Government play in promoting learning or sharing of best practice between health boards.

It would be helpful if you could let us have your response by **24 February 2021** to help inform our evidence session on 10 March.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dai Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dr Dai Lloyd MS
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

