

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Russell George AS
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee

27 July 2021

Dear Russell

Please see attached our response to the recommendations made by your recent report entitled Fifth Senedd Legacy. As the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing was a member of the committee at the time, she has noted the response for information on this occasion, to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eluned Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan'.

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services

Written Response by the Welsh Government to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee report entitled 'Fifth Senedd Legacy'.

Detailed Responses to the report's recommendations are set out below:

Recommendation 3 - The Welsh Government in the Sixth Senedd should continue to improve the level of detail and clarity of information on funding allocations within the HSS MEG in its annual draft budgets.

Response: Accept.

We will continue to review the budget structure for the HSS MEG to consider how information on funding allocations can be improved. For example, in the 2021-22 First Supplementary Budget we created a Budget Expenditure Line to show separately the funding for the new Digital Health and Care Wales Special Health Authority. We will also continue to use budget evidence papers to provide further detail on the funding allocations to the NHS that are presented in the published budget documentation. We will also continue to publish the annual revenue allocations to local health boards on the Welsh Government website.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 5 - The Welsh Government in the Sixth Senedd should consider the impact of its legislative programme on committees' ability to effectively scrutinise Bills, and to accommodate such scrutiny within their wider work programmes.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government values the scrutiny of Bills by committees and always considers the impacts on them when scheduling its legislative programme, for example endeavouring not to have more than one Bill before a committee at any one time. However there are times when policy requirements or other external drivers place limitations on the flexibility the Government has to schedule a Bill's passage through the Senedd. An example was the need to complete Stage 1 consideration of the Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Bill before the Wales Act 2017 came into effect. This can lead to competing demands between a committee's legislative and policy scrutiny duties.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 6 - The Welsh Government in the Sixth Senedd should take steps to ensure that it is able to provide as much notice, and as much time for scrutiny, of LCMs as possible.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government is committed as a matter of principle to giving as much notice and time for scrutiny of LCMs as possible to Senedd Committees. However as recognised by the Health, Care and Sport Committee the timetables for LCMs are largely determined by decisions of the UK Government.

Financial Implications – None.