

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1106  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/10640/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

13 January 22

Dear Jack,

I write in reply to your letter dated 03/12/2021 about the petition to introduce Personal Health Budgets and Personalised Care in Wales.

The clear, unambiguous expectation in Wales is for personalised, seamless integrated health and social care that enables individuals to maintain voice and control where they wish to.

We know, however, through personal experiences shared by Rhys Bowler and others that there continue to be concerns regarding people's ability to exercise voice and control over their care, when they are not able to receive direct payments under NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC).

We have a Programme for Government commitment to improve the interface between CHC and direct payments.

I am committed to looking at different options around the interface between CHC and direct payments, including how direct payments may be used for CHC recipients, which would be similar to personal health budgets in England.

I have published a revised improved version of the CHC Framework (the 2021 Framework) in July. This included some specific measures to improve the interface between CHC and direct payments. The intention was for this to be implemented at the end of November, however due to a number of reasons, including ongoing pressures of Covid-19 and winter pressures, we have deferred implementation until 1 April 2022.

Before publishing the new CHC Framework in July, officials engaged with stakeholders, including Rhys Bowler, to consider possible amendments, deliverable within the legal

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales)

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.

boundaries of the Framework that could be included to support voice and control in this area. We identified the following mechanisms:

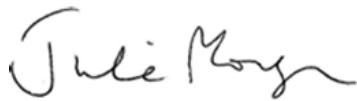
- The LHB employing personnel (either directly or via an agency) who were previously employed by the individual via direct payments
- The LHB commissioning an Independent User Trust, potentially set up by a family member of the person receiving care, to manage that person's care.

An Independent User Trust (IUT) is where a relative of the individual or other relevant parties set up a trust which becomes the provider of care for the individual. The LHB then contracts with the trust to provide specified health and social care services for the individual.

We are also considering options for the longer term, including the option of legislating to allow health boards to provide direct payments under CHC.

We held a positive working group meeting with a range of stakeholders, including Rhys Bowler, on 16 December, to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie Morgan AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Services