



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1262  
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01046/22

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

14 April 2022

Dear Jack,

I am writing in response to your letter on 3 March concerning the petition from the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) calling for a Wales-only public inquiry into the Covid-19 pandemic.

The First Minister has set out his strong commitment to an independent inquiry into the Covid-19 pandemic and the reasons for Wales being part of the UK-wide inquiry.

In December, Baroness Hallett was announced as chair and brings extensive experience of dealing with high-profile, sensitive and complex inquiries, including within a devolved context. This understanding of devolution is important to fully scrutinise the decisions and actions taken by the Welsh Government and other Welsh public services. She has been clear about the importance of putting people at the heart of the inquiry and in a recent statement has been very clear about undertaking the inquiry in a timely way. She has met with bereaved families, including members of the Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) group to discuss matters relating to the inquiry.

The draft terms of reference for the Covid-19 public inquiry were published for [consultation](#) on 10 March. The items outlined in the petition are covered by the draft terms of reference and are matters which will be included in the independent investigation by Baroness Hallett. The terms of reference are also clear that actions and decisions in Wales will be properly considered and will not be a 'footnote'.

The First Minister was consulted on the terms of reference prior to their publication. He met with the Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) group and included their feedback in his response to the Prime Minister.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

In advance of their publication, the Welsh Government has made concerted representations to the Prime Minister to ensure the experiences of people in Wales will be properly and thoroughly reflected in the inquiry and that the decisions made by the Welsh Government and other Welsh public services are properly scrutinised by the inquiry team.

The Welsh Government will further respond to this latest public phase of consultation to ensure the experiences of people in Wales are properly heard by the inquiry and have further conversations planned with the Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) group.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services