

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1290
Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/00909/22

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

15 August 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 August on behalf of the Petitions Committee about Petition P-06-1290 Enable Welsh residents to access an NHS "Right to Choose" diagnosis pathway for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessment.

The health service is a devolved area of policy and the Welsh government can do things differently from England, like the offer of free prescriptions. We do not have an equivalent scheme to the "right to choose" in Wales.

Neurodevelopmental conditions, including ADHD has only recently become part of my portfolio but I am already aware of the increasing demand and long waiting times for assessment and diagnosis. Therefore, on 6 July I made a commitment to deliver a new Neurodevelopment Improvement Programme, backed by £12million to improve waiting times, services and support for families.

As health boards are responsible for delivering services such as ADHD assessments, the Improvement Plan will examine how health boards are currently delivering their services, including the response to private diagnosis, which you raised in your letter.

I meet regularly with parents of children with ADHD and from listening to their experiences I understand the struggles that they are facing. This is another reason why I provided additional investment into services to include much-needed additional advice and support.

I will be monitoring delivery of the programme closely and a new Ministerial Advisory Group on neurodevelopmental conditions has been established. This group will provide me with advice on progress, emerging areas of best practice, funding options and any other matters that may be of value to neurodivergent individuals in Wales.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales

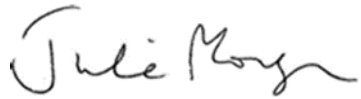
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

My officials are currently working with the ADHD Foundation and Parents Voices in Wales to look at opportunities to develop and pilot new neurodevelopmental support services in Wales.

I hope my response provides some reassurance that we are working towards an improved neurodevelopmental service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Julie' being more prominent than the last name 'Morgan'.

Julie Morgan AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services