



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1293
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/02911/22

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

2 September 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 August on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-06-1293 to provide funding for universal access to Fracture Liaison Services (FLS).

The Welsh Government recognises the valuable role that FLS have in providing early intervention, easy access to osteoporosis care and in reducing the risk of further fractures.

Dr Inder Singh, the National Clinical Lead for Falls and Frailty for Wales, has prioritised this work within the National Falls and Frailty Fracture Audit Programme Strategic Group. Following the Fracture Liaison Service Database Annual Report (www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/fls-database-annual-report-2022), undertaken by the Royal College of Physicians and published in January 2022, Dr Singh initiated a review of FLS across Wales and identified a FLS audit lead within each health board. The review provided a clear understanding of current services across Wales and helped to outline the variation in access and range of services provided that the committee refers to.

To support this important area of work, a new national FLS Development & Quality Assurance Group has been established, consisting of a wide range of key stakeholders including the FLS audit leads. The inaugural meeting was held on 20 July 2022 and focussed on the results of the national audit, improving and supporting the delivery of care across Wales and reducing the risk of subsequent fractures for patients with a recent fragility fracture. We are working closely with the Royal Osteoporosis Society and obtaining patient voices to ensure we are clear on the impact these services, or the lack of equitable access to these services, can have on the population.

To further promote the importance of bone health and osteoporosis, the Welsh Government is in the process of organising a national conference to celebrate World Osteoporosis Day

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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.

and ensure health boards in Wales are committed to driving forward fracture liaison services across Wales.

We are committed to supporting the effectiveness in osteoporosis care delivery in our existing services and working to develop those areas, which do not currently have services in place.

Health boards are responsible for providing services for their population and as such it is appropriate that funding is made available via their resources. We will work with health boards to increase the importance of fracture liaison services within their services and continue to pay close attention to progress made.

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