



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1242
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/02198/22

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

14 July 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 7 June on behalf of the petition committee regarding Petition P-06-1242 Improve Endometriosis Healthcare in Wales.

As you will be aware, I have outlined a two-pronged approach to delivering improved outcomes and ensure women are getting the best possible care and support to stay healthy over the course of their lives.

In respect of your first point, Welsh Government has developed a Women's Health Quality Statement that will enable us to provide a strategic overview of our expectations for the provision of women's health services across Wales. Health boards and trusts are responsible for planning and delivery of women's health services in line with professional standards and the quality attributes set out within the Women's Health Quality Statement.

As a response to the principles set out within the quality statement, NHS Wales will produce a Women's Health Plan that sets out how it will determine the appropriate provision required to meet the needs of their local populations including ensuring suitable tertiary care is in place to support conditions such as endometriosis and menopause. Where tertiary services are provided, I expect suitable conversations to take place on a regional basis to ensure appropriate funding arrangements exist and to enable pathways that provide equitable provision across the whole of Wales.

In relation to your second point, my officials are supporting the NHS in the development of the Women's Health Plan. I have been clear that the Plan must have significant input from services users to ensure women's voices are heard plainly and their concerns reflected.

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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.

The Women's Health Wales Coalition are a key stakeholder group and I met with them recently to discuss how we could work together to ensure women's voices resonate clearly through the quality statement and the plan. My officials meet regularly with the Coalition to ensure a suitable level of engagement with stakeholders in the development of these documents. Work on the development of the Plan is underway and there will be a process of engagement and ongoing consultation with the Coalition and wider stakeholders to ensure the plan is co-produced and responds to the needs of all women who access our health services.

Regarding your third point, the Women's Health Implementation Group (WHIG) has funded specialist endometriosis nurses and pelvic health and wellbeing coordinators in each health board in Wales. These posts are making a significant contribution in ensuring women are supported throughout diagnosis and treatment and are signposted to appropriate services to help manage their conditions. WHIG has committed to funding these posts for 3 years with the aim of developing improved pathways for women with endometriosis and pelvic health conditions to be applied consistently across Wales, but this is a time limited commitment. I expect health boards to consider the work and benefits these resources are providing to women and the service and put in place permanent measures as part of their obligations to provide high quality service provision. I expect NHS Wales to consider this in their work on the development of the Women's Health Plan.

With regard to your point on whether endometriosis will be included in the Quality, Assurance & Improvement Framework for Primary Care, the Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework is being reviewed as part of a tripartite process with health boards and the BMA. The review aims to refocus the Framework in line with proposed changes to Healthcare Standards, moving from a target driven approach to cycles of Quality Improvement projects. A broad range of QI projects will be developed, focusing on areas of priority for improvement in patient care, where general practice can have the greatest impact.

I hope this information is helpful.

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