



Ymchwil Iechyd  
a Gofal Cymru  
Health and Care  
Research Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Is-adran Ymchwil a Datblygu  
**Research and Development Division**

*Jack Sargeant MS*  
*Chair Petitions Committee*  
*Senedd Cymru*  
*Welsh Parliament*  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

August 2022

Dear Mr Sargent,

Thank you for your letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> June.

As you may already be aware, the Welsh Government's Research and Development Division (RDD) leads on strategy, policy and funding for health and care research in Wales. It fulfils this responsibility through Health and Care Research Wales which has a remit to stimulate research excellence, build capacity and capability, and support research delivery in translational and applied research.

We are currently preparing to support the Welsh Government's agenda on Women's Health, therefore your letter is very timely as we consider where the key evidence gaps across a range of issues are, inclusive of endometriosis.

This is over and above existing programmes which we support, for instance we make funding contributions to an agreed set of NIHR (England) run funding schemes which also offer opportunities for researchers with an interest in endometriosis. I am also pleased to inform you that we are in the process of making a PhD award in relation to endometriosis.

You specifically note that there are data gaps in the system which could affect the quality of research into endometriosis. I understand that endometriosis is not an easy diagnosis and could well be under-diagnosed as women need to have sufficient symptoms to consult on this condition and there are other conditions caused by the same symptoms.

Whilst Health and Care Research Wales do not have responsibility for the quality of the data in NHS digital systems, there may be opportunities to explore utilising our SAIL DATABANK team in Swansea University to identify the symptom and diagnosis codes and produce the likelihood of symptoms resulting in a diagnosis, and symptom/diagnostic prevalence.

As this piece of work would be very exploratory, it would require a clear steer from members of the Women's Implementation Health Group on the scope of what is included and whether this might provide anything meaningful over and above what is already available.

I am also aware that colleagues in the School of Psychology in Cardiff University have a strong interest in the diagnosis of endometriosis and are supporting Endometriosis Cymru in this area, therefore this may be a more fruitful research area to progress.

Thank you for bringing these issues to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Walshe', written in a cursive style.

**Professor Kieran Walshe**

Director of Health and Care Research Wales