



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1293
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/03792/22

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

21 November 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your further letter of 25 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition no. P-06-1293 about providing funding for universal access to fracture liaison services (FLS).

The Welsh Government continues to fund the national clinical audit programme which includes the FLS Database. The database provides us with a range of statistics and narrative regarding FLS and is pivotal in helping us determine our national approach to ensuring FLS are being developed across Wales.

In early 2022, officials canvassed each health board to provide an overview of the fracture liaison services they provide within their areas. This data showed significant variation and highlighted the need for development in a number of areas. This data together with strong campaigns from the third sector and patients led to the inaugural Wales Fracture Liaison Service Conference being held on 20 October 2022. The conference brought together over 150 clinicians from across Wales and beyond to promote bone health and to raise awareness of secondary fragility fracture management. The conference also formally launched the All-Wales FLS Assurance and Development Group.

The All-Wales FLS Assurance and Development group has been set up to provide advice and support to health boards on how they can develop services to realise benefits both financially and from a value-base healthcare lens. The group chaired by Dr Inder Singh, the National Clinical Lead for Falls and Frailty will work with clinicians to form business cases to present to health boards, offering support with costed modelling as required.

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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 group held its first meeting in late October and is working initially to promote and encourage health boards to participate in the FLS database audit in order to provide an accurate baseline for the assurance group and audit providers to work with.

Welsh Government is not proposing to provide additional funding as we expect health boards to take ownership of these services and to utilise the funding already available to them. This will ensure sustainability of services and projections from the Royal Osteoporosis Society demonstrate they would save money by doing so.

Finally, I remain committed to developing FLS services for the whole of Wales and will of course be challenging health boards to reflect on their secondary care prevention services within their future plans.

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