Gwenda Thomas AC / AM Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol **Deputy Minister for Social Services**



Welsh Government

Eich cvf/Your ref: P-04-492 Ein cyf/Our ref: GT/00621/13 William Powell AM Chair, Petitions Committee Ty Hywel Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear William.

// October 2013

Thank you for your letter of 3 October responding to mine of 17 August about diagnosis of ASD in children. I read the letter you received from the petitioners, the NAS Pembrokeshire Branch with interest and recognise the importance of addressing their concerns about the need to ensure there is timely access to high quality diagnostic services in every area of Wales.

I am happy to write to all Health Boards in Wales seeking information on how long children have to wait for an ASD diagnosis in their area and on their application of the NICE guidelines on ASD diagnosis in children. I will ensure that the information provided informs the work of the ASD Stakeholder Advisory Group which held its first meeting last month. I am pleased that the National Autistic Society Cymru is represented on that Group.

I have tasked my officials with following up Hywel Dda's progress on the implementation of their action plan to address the waiting list in Pembrokeshire and will write to you with an update on this in February 2014 as requested.

Yours Sincerely

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM

Gwerde .

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Deputy Minister for Social Services