

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1218
Ein cyf/Our ref: JMSS/10471/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
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29 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 6 October asking for my views on petition (P-06-1218) to 'Notify all 18 year olds who have been under social care the right to request their personal information'.

Ministers recognise how important it is for young people who have spent time in care to be able to access their records, which can be a positive experience in helping them understand their personal history and journey through the care system.

The Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked After and Accommodated Children) under our Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 reflects the importance we place on this provision. The Code sets out the role of a Personal Adviser (PA), who acts as a consistent focal point for care leavers ensuring they are provided with consistent personal support as they transition to adulthood. As part of their role PAs should offer assistance to young people so they are able to have easy access to their case files.

We understand that some care leavers may find it traumatic to view their old social care files. We expect the local authority, health services and the PA to provide access to appropriate support and/or counselling for care leavers if they do find that reading their old case files triggers trauma. Third sector advocacy providers who work with care leavers may also be able to provide support.

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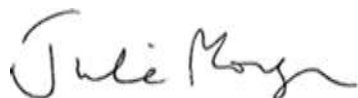
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

We are also aware that some adults who left care before we introduced our current legislation may wish to access their case files. We would expect local authorities to help facilitate these requests and that local authorities, health services and if appropriate the third sector who work in this area to provide support for what can be an emotionally draining process.

I hope you have found my reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Morgan AS/MS

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