



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/08765/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales)

20 February 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December regarding Petition P-05-914; Equal Access to Health Care for the Disabled. This is a follow up to my letter of 1 November. Sorry for the delay in replying.

GPs are independent contractors, with the GP practice entering into a contract to provide general medical services with the health board in its area. The provision of premises for these services is also something for which GPs as contractors are responsible. Despite guidance for new premises, it is recognised that some premises do not physically have space available to accommodate specialist treatment and hoist facilities. As a result, as part of commissioning reviews and discussions it is the responsibility of the health board with GP engagement to consider suitable provision for patient groups with specialist requirements.

As stated in my previous reply, guidance recommends a treatment room with a combined Changing Places Toilet and the facility to treat bariatric patients. The reason for the combined room is to maximize room utilisation. The design guidance sets out room requirements and sets out the best practice requirements.

Legislation to increase the provision of Changing Places Toilets is being considered by the Minister for Housing and Local Government. NHS facilities will need to consider compliance with any requirements that are introduced. As stated, this would be the best way to cover the requirements.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services