



Ein cyf/Our ref TO/EM/00739/22

Jan Russell  
Chair  
Welsh Association of ME & CFS Support

[jan@wames.org.uk](mailto:jan@wames.org.uk)

8 March 2022

Dear Ms Russell,

Thank you for your email of 9 February to the Welsh Government on behalf of the Welsh Association of ME & CFS Support (WAMES) regarding long Covid and ME/CFS. I have been asked to reply.

The initial Adferiad announcement was very specifically to provide an update on long Covid. Long Covid is a relatively new condition and it is important to ensure health boards are able to provide the support and treatment required. The absence of other conditions with similar symptoms within this statement should not be interpreted as a lack of will to advance services for related conditions. We agree there is much to learn from those with other post viral illnesses, including those with ME/CFS and can reassure you that ME/CFS is discussed at the vast majority of meetings considering long covid provision. Clinicians treating those with long Covid have advised of the similarities and there is a desire to ensure all services are suitable for all those living with the conditions.

As you are aware, the Welsh Government is in the final stages of appointing a new senior policy lead whose remit will include long Covid, post viral conditions and ME/CFS. They will be tasked with working with stakeholders to deliver equity of outcome for all those needing support and we will ensure your comments are shared with them once they take up post.

During the winter each health board was surveyed in relation to their services for ME/CFS as well as their response to the revised NICE guidance. We have received assurances that the new NICE guidance is being adopted. If your organisation has any evidence to the contrary we would welcome hearing about this. Within the survey we also queried what



Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
• Health and Social Services Group  
Parc Cathays • Cathays Park  
Caerdydd • Cardiff • CF10 3NQ

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf  
• First Point of Contact Centre:  
E-bost • E-mail:  
[CustomerHelp@gov.wales](mailto:CustomerHelp@gov.wales)  
Ffôn • Tel: 0300 0604400

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.

support is required to help improve services for all those presenting post viral symptoms and additional funding and training was mentioned.

Whilst it is the responsibility of health boards to provide appropriate ME/CFS services for their populations, we continue to explore how to expand integrated services for all people with post-viral illnesses and other long-term conditions, including ME/CFS.

I hope this response has been helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. Morgan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Richard Morgan**

Tîm Business y Llywodraeth a Corfforaethol / Government and Corporate Business Team  
Yr Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol / Department for Health and Social  
Services