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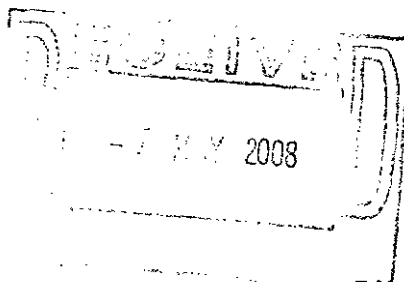
Edwina Hart AM MBE

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



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Our ref: EH/02085/08
Your ref:



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6 May 2008

Dear Val

ABD

Thank you for your letter of 18th April on behalf of the Petitions Committee, requesting the Assembly Government's policy position regarding prostate cancer screening and availability of the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test.

As all screening involves potential benefit and harm the National Screening Committee (NSC) advises the for UK countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation. When considering population screening programmes, the benefits and harm must be assessed carefully, and the benefits should always outweigh the harm. I must be guided by the NSC's recommendations, which are clear, that population screening for prostate cancer, including the use of PSA as a screening test, should not be provided by the NHS or offered to the public until there is new evidence of an effective screening technology for prostate cancer.

[Handwritten signature]