

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-452
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01510/14

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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30 April 2014

Dear William,

Petition – P-04-452 Equal Rights for Tube-fed Youngsters

Thank you for your recent letter following the Committee's meeting of 18 February at which you considered my earlier letter to you of 16 January. That letter outlined our approach to the enhanced provision of direct payments through the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill and how we are addressing the relationship between direct payments and continuing NHS healthcare (CHC) through the revised Framework for CHC which is currently in development. This was in relation to the petition that Dr Blewett-Silcock had raised in connection with her daughter, Poppy.

Your latest letter asks how the regulations and code of practice on direct payments being developed as a consequence of the passing of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill will improve the situation for those such as Dr Blewett-Silcock. As I explained previously the provisions of the Bill will allow us to enhance the provision of direct payments in Wales. This is to make it easier for people to be aware of this possibility of meeting their social care and support needs and to be able to make informed choices about direct payments. Hence they will help those in the position which Dr Blewett-Silcock originally found herself. They are, however, and have never been about the extension of direct payments to healthcare where a person's care and support needs change from a social care need to a healthcare need, as I understand subsequently occurred in the case of Dr Blewett-Silcock's daughter. That issue will be considered through the revised National Framework for CHC to which I also referred in my earlier letter.

The Committee will be interested to know that the consultation on the revised Framework ended earlier this year with over 50 responses being received on a range of issues, one of which was the interface between CHC and direct payments. With a view to issuing the final revised Framework early this summer. In this way we aim to address the complex policy and practice issues which arise at the interface of health and social care and which have been apparent in the case of Dr Blewett-Silcock's daughter Poppy.

Best wishes

Mark

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