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TC/JL

Your Ref: P-03-150

22 July 2014

William Powell AC/AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Petition – P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

Further to your letter dated 30 April, and to the letter sent by my colleague Huw George on 1 July, please accept my apologies for this delayed response.

As Huw George explained in his original letter to you on 11 February, one of Public Health Wales' core functions is to provide information to the public about health. As such, I am able to respond to the questions raised in this area.

As the petitioner, Diane Raybould, notes, the Macmillan National Cancer Patient Information Strategy Project has provided specific recommendations to improve information for cancer patients in Wales from the point of diagnosis onwards. These include:

- Sharing content
- Quality standards
- Cancer information portal
- A skills framework for healthcare professionals
- Integration of community based services

The project recommendations were taken to the All Wales Cancer Implementation Group (which oversees the delivery of the Welsh Government Cancer Delivery Plan) in March 2014.



The Cancer Implementation Group has supported the recommendations in principle and asked for an action plan to be developed to take these recommendations forward. The group has also prioritised the need to improve patient information within its plans. The action plan will be presented to group's September meeting.

With regards to the petitioner's concerns about the implementation of the project recommendations, I believe that significant improvements to patient information could be delivered within existing budgets by better co-ordination of resources. To give three examples:

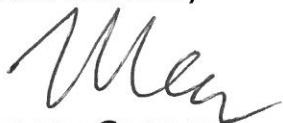
- The high quality third sector information resources available in a range of formats could be used more by hosting them on an all Wales website.
- There could also be more and better signposting to community based information services to complement the information provided by health care professionals.
- Additional support could also be provided to individuals who struggle to access and understand the information they require.

To ensure better co-ordination of resources, the Macmillan National Cancer Patient Information Strategy Project is closely aligned to the development by the Welsh Government of the key worker role and the assessment and care planning process.

The Wales Cancer Patient Experience Survey published in January 2014 provided significant evidence about patients' experiences of information and provides a useful baseline for the project. We hope that the survey will be repeated in two years time so that we can measure progress by health boards on this key area.

The petitioner also asks questions about waiting times for 'non-urgent suspected cancer'; about care plans and key workers. You will appreciate that Public Health Wales is not best placed to answer on these subjects and you may wish to address the questions to the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely



Tracey Cooper
Chief Executive
Public Health Wales