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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru
University Hospital of Wales
UHB Headquarters

Heath Park
Cardiff, CF14 4XW

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Caerdydd, CF14 4XW

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-492
Eiri cyf/Our ref: AC-ns-05-4778
Welsh Health Telephone Network:
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Professor Adam Cairns
Chief Executive

07 May 2015

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

Dear William

Re Petition P-04-492 Diagnosis of Autism in Children

I write in response to your letter received on 23 April 2015 to confirm that I support that children should have access to timely diagnostic processes wherever they live.

In Cardiff and the Vale we operate a Social and Communication Assessment Pathway (SCAP) in order to provide a clear diagnostic process for children and their families. This is a multidisciplinary and multiagency process, ensuring that children are assessed by educational and health professionals prior to a decision being made with regards to diagnosis.

We aim to complete the process in line with NICE guidelines. However this is not always possible for a variety of reasons. It may be that a child's developmental profile means that a clear diagnosis is not always possible within the timescale, as signs and symptoms emerge. In some cases Autism may also be associated with other medical conditions. In complex cases the time to diagnosis may have to be extended in order to gather all relevant information before a diagnosis can be made.

I hope this is helpful

Yours sincerely

Ruth Walker
Acting Chief Executive, on behalf of
Professor Adam Cairns
Chief Executive