



GIG  
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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

Ein cyf/Our ref: CEO.8387  
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Katie Jenner  
Rhif Ffôn /Telephone: 01267 239730  
Dyddiad/Date: 31 March 2022

Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad Ystwyth  
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job  
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Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair of the Petitions Committee/Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau  
Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru  
By email: [petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales)

Dear Chair

## Re: Petition P-06-1242 Improve Endometriosis Healthcare in Wales

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2022, in which you asked Hywel Dda University Health Board to provide feedback on action being taken within its service to address the issues raised in the petition.

The Health Board has appointed a Pelvic Health Co-ordinator, who is the first point of contact for women with pelvic health concerns and can signpost patients to the correct specialty. Furthermore, we appointed an Endometriosis Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in May 2021. This has facilitated the establishment of a multi-disciplinary team approach to redesigning pathways for women referred with suspected or confirmed endometriosis.

Patients referred to the service are now directed to the CNS for initial consultation, advice, support and investigation, with two nurse led endometriosis clinics a week having been established. Dependent on symptoms, patients can be referred to the pain team, physiotherapy, dietician, psychosexual counselling and further follow up is provided with a nominated Gynaecologist, who has a specialist interest in endometriosis. The CNS also provides telephone and email support and signposting for any women contacting the service. The CNS works closely with the other newly appointed specialist nurses across the Welsh Health Boards, supported by the Women's Health Implementation Group (WHIG) and they are continuing to develop knowledge, skills, competencies and the scope of the new roles in a standardised way; ensuring that pathways meet National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines, and the needs of the local populations in Wales.

Specialist support is recognised as a core challenge, due to the only specialist centre in Wales being based within Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB). Typically, patients requiring specialist support are referred onto the tertiary centre in CVUHB, although they are not currently accepting referrals due to their capacity challenges.

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Cadeirydd /Chair  
**Miss Maria Battle**

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive  
**Mr Steve Moore**

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Hywel Dda  
Hywel Dda University Health Board is the operational name of Hywel Dda University Local Health Board

Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yn amgylchedd di-fwg Hywel Dda University Health Board operates a smoke free environment

Whilst we are unable to specify the number of patients awaiting endometriosis extraction due to the lack of specific coding for this procedure, the Health Board does acknowledge a 156 week wait for routine Gynaecological surgery. Work is currently being undertaken to expand internal theatre capacity, along with a scoping exercise for understanding the possibility of outsourcing.

The improvement of services for endometriosis patients continues to be a priority for our service and we are committed to continuing to work closely with WHIG and our colleagues in NHS Wales to develop our skills, knowledge and services as a whole.

I trust this response provides the committee with the information required. Should you require any further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me once more.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' at the beginning.

**Steve Moore**  
**Chief Executive**