

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/07969/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

21 October 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September regarding petition P-05-849: all men in Wales should have access through the NHS to the best possible diagnostic tests for prostate cancer.

In recognition of the emerging evidence and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's review of its guidance, the Welsh Government convened three workshops to bring the clinical community together to create a consensus on the best way forward and to enable local planning to comply with any revised guidance. At the most recent workshop on 2 October 2019, Health Boards not providing investigations in line with the revised guidance were required to provide updates on their implementation plans. It is my expectation that all Health Boards will come into line with guidance by the end of the financial year, potentially earlier. This programme of change is being overseen by the National Imaging Network and the Wales Urology Board. I will continue to monitor progress closely.

While Health Boards are transitioning to this new service model, people with suspected prostate cancer will continue to be investigated in line with the extant clinical pathways. While I appreciate it is desirable for appropriate patients to be offered pre-biopsy mpMRI, I accept that Health Boards will need time to put in place the relevant equipment, training and capacity to do this.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As said in my earlier correspondence, should patients seek to be investigated by private means then this must remain a matter for those patients concerned. I understand the point being made by Prostate Cancer UK about the fairness of some men seeking private investigations but we must not lose sight of the fact that all men in Wales with suspected prostate cancer will continue to be offered expert NHS diagnostic care.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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