

Julie Morgan AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-771
Ein cyf/Our ref JM/00278/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

17 April 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 30 March, in response to mine of 4 March, in connection with the independent care assessments introduced for recipients of payments from the former Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG). This was in connection with Petition P-05-771 from Nathan Davies, which I understand the Committee is still considering.

As you know good progress had been made at that time by ICS Assessment Services, who was appointed to undertake the independent care assessments for those who requested these. ICS had undertaken all of the 46 assessments requested by former recipients. However, as I am sure you will appreciate the current Covid-19 situation has caused a delay in undertaking the follow up meetings with both recipients, and in some cases joint meetings with recipients and local authority social workers, necessary to complete this exercise in each case. Consequently, with the health and safety in mind of both the recipients and ICS'/ local authority social workers, in around 14 cases completion of this process has been paused until the situation regarding Covid-19 abates.

This does not mean that those recipients affected will not be supported to live independently during this period. Local authorities will continue to provide the care and support these recipients were receiving prior to their request for an independent care assessment was made and will continue to do this until the process in their case is completed in the future. While this is disappointing and not a situation which any of us would have wished, I am sure you will agree that in these difficult times the well-being of individuals is paramount.

I will of course continue to update the Committee on events.

Yours sincerely

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Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales

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.