

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-492  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00139/15

William Powell AM  
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Clerking Team

Petition@Wales.gov.uk

2 February 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 January which seeks assurances that I am committed to the approach and commitment made by Gwenda Thomas AM, in her letter of 21 August, concerning the establishment of a Task and Finish Group on children's autism diagnosis.

In November 2014 officials contacted all health boards requesting an update on their diagnostic services. The responses received showed that waiting times for children are still long in some areas, due in part to a significant increase in demand for diagnosis. Health boards also differ in how they collect data, so comparisons are difficult to make. It was though, encouraging to note that plans were in place in most health board areas to reduce diagnostic waiting times for children.

The establishment of the Task and Finish group is a priority for action for 2015-16. Officials are currently drafting the terms of reference and will be seeking nominations for membership of the group and appointing a chair shortly. The role of this group will be to review current practice, to share good practice and to seek a consistent approach to diagnostic pathways which meet NICE guidelines.

Best wishes,

Mark

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Minister for Health and Social Services

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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