

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-04-571
Ein cyf/Our ref: MD/01359/15

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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21 May 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 April requesting the outcome of my letters to Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Public Health, and to Professor David Haslam, chair of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

No response has been forthcoming from Jane Ellison MP, although my officials have been in contact with their policy colleagues at the Department of Health in an effort to encourage this. My officials have also been pressing for the Department of Health's medicines, pharmacy and industry group to give consideration to encouraging the availability of an appropriate licensed product. Again, we are waiting to hear the outcome of this.

I have received a response from Professor Haslam who has advised that, as the British Committee for Standards in Haematology has published guidance on pernicious anaemia and B12 deficiency, they are unlikely to be asked by the Department of Health to produce alternative guidance. He has said, however, that a published Clinical Knowledge Summary on the topic of anaemia is available at:

<http://cks.nice.org.uk/anaemia-b12-and-folate-deficiency>

Clinical Knowledge Summaries are not developed by NICE but are a collation of all available evidence on a topic. NICE commissions this service to provide practitioners with a readily accessible summary of the current evidence base and best practice in respect of about 330 common and/or significant primary care presentations.

While it will be some time before the next batch of topics for NICE consideration are identified, Professor Haslam has suggested that I consider asking the Department of Health about referring this topic on an exceptional basis. It is my intention to seek advice from the National Specialist Advisory Committee and I would be happy to receive the Petitions Committee's thoughts about this.

Best wishes,

Mark

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