



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Dr Ruth Hussey CB, OBE  
Prif Swyddog Meddygol/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru  
Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee

28<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Mr Powell

**Petition P-04-603 Helping babies born at 22 weeks to survive**

Thank you for your letter of the 19 November with regards to Petition P-04-603 Helping babies born at 22 weeks to survive, and I apologise for the late response.

As informed previously, the Welsh Government has tasked the Maternity and Neonatal networks to review current evidence and develop updated guidance on this issue. The Maternity and Neonatal Networks have jointly developed a document, 'Care at the margins of viability', which was presented at both the September and October steering committees of the maternity and neonatal networks, with a draft document being presented at the Neonatal Steering Group on the 6 November 2015. The document is currently being consulted on with staff at the various neonatal services in Wales prior to being finalised and published.

The guidance will be based on current British Association of Perinatal Medicine guidance using evidence from medical literature and professional consensus.

As part of this work, feedback is also being sought from parents and BLISS (charity working to provide the best possible care and support for all premature and sick babies and their families), on both the guidelines and parent information leaflets.

As you will be aware, Ms Emma Jones, the petitioner, met with Dr Heather Payne, Senior Medical Officer for maternity and child health, and Edward Rees, Head of Obesity Prevention and Children's Health, on the 18 February 2015 to discuss her petition and Dr Payne held a follow up meeting with Ms Jones on the 12 October 2015 in order to gather her comments on the development of the draft document. Emma's comments were fed back to the Maternity and Neonatal Networks who are responsible for the issuing of the guidance.



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Dr Payne has followed up on her meeting with Ms Jones and apologised for the time it is taking to develop the guidance document. Arrangements are also being made for Ms Jones to meet with the Network leads, accompanied by Dr Payne, so that she can formally provide feedback on the draft report, especially on how best to support mothers who deliver early and how they communicate with parents.

I hope this reassures the committee that the Welsh Government has already provided Ms Jones with an opportunity to input to the development of the document and that her input will continue to be of value to the process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Hussey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'H' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

**DR RUTH HUSSEY CB, OBE**

cc: David Rees AM, Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee