

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00108/13

David Stewart  
Convener of the Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Public Petitions Clerks  
Room T3.40  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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29 January 2013

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 10 January requesting information on the management of chronic pain services in Wales.

The Welsh Government published its Service Development and Commissioning Directive for Chronic Non-malignant Pain in 2008 which outlines our approach to tackling improvements in service provision and care for people living with persistent pain.

The Directive recognises how, as well as coping with physical pain, the pain experience can have a dramatic impact on self-esteem, social relationships, employment opportunities and personal finances. It supports the movement of treatment and care from acute care settings to community and primary care based settings, consistent with the Chronic Conditions Management Model and Framework, and also recognises individual needs vary, and how some patients may require more specialist management through a multi-professional pain service.

An audit of Local Health Board (LHB) compliance with the Directive was undertaken in April 2011 which showed the LHBs are compliant with 87% of the actions within the Pain Directive.

I have attached a link to the Welsh Government website for Service Development and Commissioning Directives: Chronic Non-Malignant Pain, from where you can access a copy of the document; <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/strategies/pain/?lang=en>

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

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If you would like further information regarding how services are provided in Wales, you may wish to contact Dr Owen Hughes, Head of Bronllys Residential Pain Management Programme and Chair of the Welsh Pain Advisory Board, at [Owen.Hughes@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Owen.Hughes@wales.nhs.uk).

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

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