

Eluned Morgan MS  
Minister for Health and Social Services  
Welsh Government

24 November 2021

Dear Eluned

### COVID-19 recovery

You may be aware we dedicated our Committee meeting on 7 October to exploring expert academics' perspectives on the key issues emerging in relation to COVID-19 recovery.

A note of the issues we discussed with the academics is available on our website:

<https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s119993/COVID-19%20recovery%20academics%20Note%20of%20issues%20discussed.pdf>


We heard from academics during the session about the importance of clinical research in Wales. During our meeting, it was suggested that "healthcare should be evidence based or evidence generating". We welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to work with the UK Government and other devolved nations to create a world-leading UK clinical research environment but feel the Welsh Government could be doing more to embed and support the delivery of this vision across the Welsh NHS.

We were concerned to hear that the research team leading the Wales Wellbeing COVID-19 surveys, which look at the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of the population, were not aware of whether the Welsh Government was drawing on their findings or the associated dataset to inform policy development and decision making.

I would be grateful if you could outline how the Welsh Government engages with academics and their research in order to ensure that decisions and policy development are evidence-based.

It would be helpful if you could provide a response by Friday 14 January 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

