

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1496
Ein cyf/Our ref: JMHSC/11069/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

07 January 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Petition P-06-1496 To make heart screening a mandatory requirement for membership of sports clubs and gyms in Wales.

Thank you for your letter about the above petition.

Like the other UK nations, the Welsh Government follows the independent, expert advice of the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC), which advises Ministers about all aspects of population and targeted screening. It brings academic rigour and authority to what is an extremely complex area and is a world leader in its field.

The UK NSC does not currently recommend systematic population or targeted heart screening. There are uncertainties about the overall benefits of identifying people with risk factors and current tests are not reliable enough, so many people would be missed and provided with false reassurance, while many others would be given false positive results.

There is currently no agreed treatment for someone who has been identified as at risk. Receiving an incorrect positive test may stop people participating in sporting activities which would have a detrimental effect on their overall health, as well as considerable long-term anxiety. In these ways, screening can cause unintended harm.

The UK NSC keeps all its policy positions under regular review and the committee keeps under continuous review any new published evidence on the topic of sudden cardiac death, including for young people who play grassroots sports. The Welsh Government will await the latest advice of the UK NSC and consider any potential changes as soon as this becomes available.

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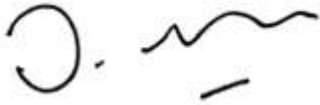
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of connected loops and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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