

Sarah Murphy AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1479
Ein cyf/Our ref SM/00016/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

27 January 2025

Dear Carolyn Thomas,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 January regarding the petition from the Stolen Lives Wales, Homes Not Hospitals campaign.

I support the principle that a hospital bed is not a home and whenever practical, people with learning disabilities should be cared for in the community, at home or as close to home as possible. I am committed to reducing the number of people receiving their care, long-term in a hospital setting and when they are admitted, their hospital stay is for no longer than is absolutely necessary.

I responded to a debate about this issue in the Senedd in December; my response touches on many of the issues raised in the petition. It is available here: [Plenary 04/12/2024 - Welsh Parliament](#)

I tasked the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG) with setting up a task and finish group to consider the five key asks of the Stolen Lives Wales manifesto. Members of the Stolen Lives campaign and learning disability third sector partners are members of this group.

The group has met three times to date, the last meeting was on 21 January. This is a complex area of work, and the group have committed to providing me with a report and recommendations via the LDMAG in the summer.

I want to wait for this report and its recommendations before responding to some of the specific queries in your letter. I have committed to sharing the report and my formal response to any recommendations with the Senedd.

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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.

I am copying this letter to Russell George, chair of the Senedd's Health and Social Care Committee and to Sioned Williams, chair of the cross-party group on learning disabilities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline for the "y".

Sarah Murphy AS/MS

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