

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

22 April 2025

Re. Petition P-06-1488 Establish a 'Care Society' to Tackle the Long COVID Crisis in Wales

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter dated 7th March about our ongoing or planned inquiry work regarding the Welsh Government's strategic approach to Long COVID.

We are not currently undertaking, and do not have any plans to undertake, any work that relates directly to the Welsh Government's strategic approach to Long COVID.

However, COVID and its long-term impacts have been relevant to most of the scrutiny work we have carried out during the Sixth Senedd. Here are some examples of current and completed pieces of work that are particularly relevant to the above petition:

- Pupil absence, which considered absenteeism of pupils as a consequence of COVID, amongst other factors (completed)
- Mental health support in higher education, which considered specifically what the impact of COVID has been on the mental health of university students (completed)
- Services for care experience children: exploring radical reform, which considered the Welsh Government's basic income trial for care leavers (completed)
- Implementation of education reforms, which considers the implementation of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 and the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, the rollout of which has been significantly affected by COVID (ongoing)
- School improvement and learner attainment, which will consider whether, and to what extent, pupil absence has an impact on educational progress (planned for summer 2025)

The petitioner will also find reference to COVID throughout our annual scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget, Estyn, Qualifications Wales and the Children's Commissioner for Wales. My clerks would be happy to provide any more information about those areas of work if that would be helpful. Your petitioner can contact them any time by emailing SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales.

I hope this information has been useful.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.