

TO/EM/00487/24 - ADHD assessment and medication for teenagers - Welsh
Government Reply

HSCEY – Government Business Team / Tîm Busnes y Llywodraeth : [Redacted s40(2)]

Cc C W : [Redacted s40(2)]

Cc Correspondence mail - EM: [Redacted s40(2)]

Tue 3/12/2024 1:07 PM

TO/EM/00487/24

Dear : [Redacted s40(2)]

Thank you for your email of 21 February addressed to Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services regarding your son's wait for a NHS ADHD assessment. I have been asked to reply.

I was sorry to read about your son's situation and can understand how stressful and frustrating this must be for you all. Unfortunately, the Welsh Government is unable to intervene in individual cases. Health Boards are responsible for the assessment and diagnosis of neurodevelopmental conditions such as ADHD, and this includes the recognition of private assessments. You will understand independent assessments require careful consideration to ensure that they are undertaken to a high quality, which meet clinical guidelines.

Seeking private treatment, including private prescriptions, is a personal decision for you and your family and there is no provision for the NHS or Welsh Government to refund all, or part, of the costs incurred as NHS resources should not be used to subsidise the use of private care.

Patients who request to be referred privately are expected to pay the full cost of any treatment they receive in relation to the care provided privately, which includes medication prescribed by a clinician in the course of a private consultation. Patients should be informed of this expectation prior to referral.

It is for your GP to consider what NHS treatment is appropriate including whether to prescribe medication following a private consultation. In the first instance you should discuss your son's treatment with his GP.

Demand for ADHD assessment and support has risen very sharply in recent years as the general awareness of neurodivergent conditions has increased, leading to lengthening

waiting times for assessment. We have undertaken a demand and capacity review of existing services and, in response, an additional £12 million of investment over three years has been provided to the Neurodivergence Improvement Programme to reduce the immense pressures in the system, to improve waiting times for assessment and to address gaps in current provision in both children and adult services.

To fully understand the current challenges in the system, the NHS delivery unit (part of the NHS Executive) is working closely with services to identify what more we can do to improve services quickly and to reduce waiting times.

We fund the National Neurodivergent Team (previously known as the National Autism Team) and they provide support for the training and development of knowledge of neurodivergent conditions among professionals across Wales. A library of resources, for both parents/carers and professionals, have been produced by the NNT and are available on their [website](#). These resources have been co-produced with individuals who are neurodiverse.

If you are not satisfied with the services provided by your health board you may raise concerns with them directly, contact details for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board can be found here: [Concerns, Complaints and Compliments - Cardiff and Vale University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#).

I would expect the health board to provide you with a satisfactory reply that fully addresses the concerns you have raised. Should this not be the case, there are further steps which can be taken through the *Putting Things Right* procedure and I have attached a link which explains the process in more detail: [Putting Things Right: alternative formats | GOV.WALES](#).

You may also wish to know that Llais, the new national citizen voice body can also be contacted for any further support using the following link: [Cardiff & The Vale | LLais \(llaiswales.org\)](#)

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted s40(2)]

Tîm Busnes y Llywodraeth/Government Business Team

Y Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/Health and Social Services Group

Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government