



Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/00818/25

Rebecca Evans MS
Member of the Senedd for Gower

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April 2025

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for your letter of 19 March on behalf of your constituent about shared care arrangements between GPs and private practitioners, specifically for those people who have received a private ADHD diagnosis.

People 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. This includes medication prescribed by a clinician in the course of a private consultation. People should be informed about this expectation before referral. There is no provision for either NHS Wales or Welsh Government to refund any of these costs, as NHS resources should not be used to subsidise the use of private care.

Although a GP may agree to convert a private prescription to an NHS one, they must only prescribe in areas where they feel competent to do so. A GP may consider they do not have the same depth of knowledge as the specialist; they may also refuse if the medication needs special monitoring that they do not have the expertise to undertake. Some health boards restrict the prescribing of certain medicines to specialist clinicians, often those based in the hospital setting. A GP may therefore wish to refer a patient to a specialist within the NHS to continue their treatment.

Demand for ADHD assessment and support has risen very sharply in recent years as awareness of neurodivergent conditions has increased. Unfortunately, this has led to longer NHS waiting times for assessment.

We established the Neurodivergence Improvement Programme in July 2022, providing an additional £12m to improve services, focusing on developing sustainable and integrated services and support systems. In February, the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing announced a further £13.7m to extend the programme to March 2027.

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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.

We also fund the national neurodivergent team (previously known as the National Autism Team) which provides 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, has been produced and is available at: [About us - Niwrowahaniaeth Cymru | Neurodivergence Wales | National Neurodivergence Team](#)

Patients and families who are not satisfied with the services provided by their health board may wish to raise their concerns directly through the *Putting Things Right* process. The health board should provide a satisfactory response addressing their concerns. If the patient is not satisfied with the response received, there are further steps that can be taken and I have attached a link which explains the process in more detail: [Putting Things Right](#).

Finally, the CALL helpline is open 24/7 and offers confidential emotional support and advice to both an individual and their family. The number is 0800 132 737 and the website provides information about maintaining mental wellbeing: [Community Advice and Listening Line \(CALL\) Mental Health Helpline](#)

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care