

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/02898/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AS/MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

28 May 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 4 May, as Chair of the Petitions Committee, regarding Petition P-05-961 to lower the age for breast cancer screening in Wales from 50 to 30.

Wales, like the rest of the UK, follows the independent, expert advice of the UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC). Routine breast screening of women under 50 without any symptoms is not offered in the UK because the UKNSC advises that the current evidence indicates that the benefits of screening do not outweigh the known harms. At present, for breast cancer, the recommended routine screening age range is between 50 and 70 years, with screening offered on a three-yearly basis. All recommendations are subject to regular review and should the UKNSC recommend changing the age range for breast screening, the Welsh Government will consider how this can be delivered in Wales. The UKNSC recommendation on breast screening can be found at:

<https://legacyscreening.phe.org.uk/breastcancer>

The benefits and harms of breast cancer screening were considered in an independent review published in 2012 at: https://about-cancer.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/breast-cancer/getting-diagnosed/screening/screening-2012-review?_ga=2.195904684.1062693435.1589284068-436743268.1589284068

If any patient is concerned about symptoms they should contact their GP to discuss their concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
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Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.