

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref VG/07054/16  
Your ref: P-05-736

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

20 December 2016

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 7 December about this petition (ref P-05-736) which relates to mental health services. I was sorry to read about the difficulties Laura has experienced with her mental health.

When somebody presents to the health service with mental health problems, the GP or other professional will use their professional judgement and decide the most appropriate next step. Many people will be offered advice or support directly by their GP, or offered access to more information, such as books on prescription or medication.

For others, the GP or other professional may refer on for a more detailed assessment. This referral may be to the Local Primary Mental Health Support Service (LPMHSS). Over the last two years, we have invested an additional £2.3m in LPMHSS. Since the Mental Health (Wales) Measure came into force in 2012, over 115,000 people have been seen by LPMHSS in Wales.

Other people may need to be seen by specialist mental health services which might include the community mental health team, or if more acute, to the crisis team or other service. This will be a professional judgement which is made following discussion with the individual.

We introduced new targets for services last year and now expect people to be assessed within 28 days, compared to the previous target of 56 days. Urgent referrals are expected to be seen within 48 hours and emergency referrals within four hours.

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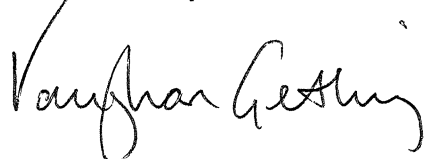
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 have also invested an additional £4m over the last two years in psychological therapies. Welsh Government officials have been in detailed discussions with each health board to agree how they will use the additional funding to improve access to psychological therapies.

I hope the signatories of the petition and the committee find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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