



Ein cyf/Our ref: OQ57009

Darren Millar MS
Member of the Senedd for Clwyd West

Darren.millar@senedd.wales

21 October 2021

Dear Darren,

I am writing following First Ministers' Questions on 12 October about the NHS and social care financial recognition scheme. You asked about whether advocacy workers and staff at the Dewis Centre for Independent Living in Conwy and Denbighshire are eligible for payment under this scheme.

We have engaged extensively with social care partners in the development of this major and complex scheme. This included with the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru (ADSSC), the Welsh Local Government Association and trade unions. Social care is a wide and diverse sector in Wales with around 1,000 different employers.

Advocacy roles are very important but they were not included within the scope of the scheme as they are classed as an assistive role, rather than being involved in the direct delivery of social care services. We are not aware advocates in other parts of Wales have received the payment.

Advocates are specifically referred to in the published guidance as being outside the scope of the scheme: [NHS and social care financial recognition scheme: guidance for social care workers \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Officials provided supplementary guidance to all local authorities administering the scheme in May 2021, which reiterated aspects of eligibility criteria, including with regard to advocates.

We have been contacted by staff and managers of Dewis Independent Living about this issue and individual staff members have also raised appeals, which have been heard by the Welsh Government appeals panel. This comprises an independent chair, Welsh

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru • ps.firstminister@gov.wales

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.

Government officials and representatives of the trade unions, ADSSC and providers. The appeals have not been upheld.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD