



Our ref: WQ84746

Russell George MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Montgomeryshire

Russell.George@senedd.wales

24 March 2022

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking me what support I will provide for people with long COVID to return to work, and what assessment has been made of the number of people that require support.

Employers are responsible for the putting in place procedures when an employee is ready to return to work following a period of absence due to illness. By law the employer must make reasonable adjustments, if needed, to support an employee's return.

I have provided funding to ensure services are available to support people with long COVID via the Adferiad Programme. This has included the development of a unique and innovative Long COVID recovery app for people with long COVID. I will make an announcement shortly on further funding for the Adferiad programme in 2022-2023.

All health boards in Wales have developed integrated, multi-professional recovery and rehabilitation service models for people with long COVID, including putting in place referral mechanisms to secondary care specialists and diagnostics for those who clinically need it. Access into this integrated and multi-professional model is through GP services.

This has been further supported by the Welsh Government's national rehabilitation framework which is being used by Health boards, local authority and third sector partners to respond to increased demand for rehabilitation, reablement and recovery support.

In my [statement on long COVID](#) in the Senedd on 8 February, I confirmed that data from Digital Health and Care Wales shows that, by January, just over 2,400 people had been diagnosed with long COVID by their GP or healthcare professional in Wales, and 2,226 people were referred into our long COVID rehabilitation services in the last year.

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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.

Since my statement, the latest data from Digital Health and Care Wales shows that 3,418 people in total have been diagnosed with long COVID. The rate of increase remains steady and has not spiked.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services