

**Edwina Hart AM MBE**

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

Our ref:

Your ref:

Assembly Members

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*Dear Colleague*

22 April 2008

As I have received a large number of letters from yourselves and the public concerning the Parkinson's Disease Society's campaign on deep brain stimulation provision in Wales, I am writing to update you and hope my letter will assist in replying to your constituents.

You will recall that I wrote to Assembly Members with a policy position on deep brain stimulation in December, and I attach a copy here for ease of reference. Neurology services for patients with Parkinson's Disease form part of the review of adult neurosciences in Wales, which is due to report to me in the summer.

I have asked Health Commission Wales to prepare an implementation plan detailing how deep brain stimulation can be introduced for Welsh residents.

I will make a further statement in due course.

*Edwina Hart*

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7 December 2007

Dear Colleagues,

It was agreed during Plenary on 21 November 2007 that I would provide a note to all Assembly Members about the commissioning arrangements for deep-brain stimulation and all issues involved.

### **Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Therapy**

The provision of DBS services for patients is the responsibility of Health Commission Wales (HCW), who are best placed to undertake the necessary needs assessments and prioritise services accordingly, within the finite resources made available by the Welsh Assembly Government.

HCW needs to balance considerations such as equity, accessibility, clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness, national policy and the delivery of Welsh Assembly Government targets when considering commissioning any service for which they are responsible.

The provision of this treatment option has been designated as a low priority for HCW in 2006/07. This decision was supported by the HCW National Commissioning Advisory Board at its meeting on the 7 June 2006. HCW will review its policy on DBS on an annual basis, and its priority status will be reviewed following the publication of the Medical Research Council trial results as a potential area for investment in future years. Simon Dean, in his previous capacity as Chief Executive Officer of HCW, recently met with the Parkinson's Disease Society and

the Dystonia Society to discuss how they can submit evidence to be considered in reviewing the commissioning policy for DBS.

Due to lack of evidence for the clinical and cost effectiveness of this procedure, the current HCW commissioning policy for deep brain stimulation only supports the funding in exceptional circumstances. An internal review of a decision made by HCW may be requested where an original decision has been made and it is considered that:

- There is additional information, which, if considered, would alter the original decision.
- There are over-riding exceptional personal circumstances, which may influence the decision to approve access to treatment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. M.', located below the list of conditions.