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Our ref MA-P/HID/2091/18

John Griffiths AM
Chair
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

26 June 2018

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 30 May regarding correspondence you have received from Julie Morgan AM about the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG).

As I indicated in my Written Statement of 23 May, as at the end of March this year around 75% of the 1,300 people who had been receiving payments under the WILG had either completed, or were in the process of completing, the review of their future support needs with their local authority. As a result over a third of all people who received payments – around 400 people – were now having their future support needs to live independently met by their local authority, either directly by the authority or by receiving direct payments from the authority to arrange this support themselves.

This left at that time around 900 people in total to either complete their review where they had commenced this, or to commence this for completion. As I said in my Written Statement all reviews of people's future support needs are to be completed by the end of September this year. We are about to seek the quarterly monitoring data we obtain from local authorities on this process which I would expect that for the period since March to show that this number of outstanding cases has reduced significantly further since then.

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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.

With those people who are now receiving their support from their local authority, these authorities report some people have had their level of support increased, whilst the majority have receive support similar to the level they had through their WILG payment. Only in a small number of cases has their support reduced, particularly where authorities have identified that services paid for using payments under the WILG were not of a social care nature. Where this has occurred, authorities are working through these with the people affected to come to a satisfactory solution. That said, this is ultimately not about whether people get more or less support as a result of the review of their future needs with their local authority. It is about ensuring that disabled people have the appropriate support they need to deliver their wellbeing outcomes and are able to live independently at home.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Plant, Pobl Hyn a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Minister for Children, Older People & Social Care