Dear Paul,

Thank you for your supplementary question on the 15 December in Plenary concerning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on charities across Wales, and in particular the impact on medical charities relating to funding provided to support medical research.

Welsh Government is aware of the financial difficulties medical research charities are facing and continue to work with our charitable research funder partners to mitigate as far as possible the impact of the pandemic on health and care research. For example, we have been actively engaging with large charities such as Cancer Research UK and have put flexible financial arrangements in place to support jointly funded research projects with the Scar Free Foundation and Fight for Sight.

Our activities has also involved supporting the recovery of research funded by medical charities and other funders of health research. An agreed framework for restarting research activities which have been paused due to COVID-19 has been published by the National Institute for Health Research and Wales alongside other devolved nations has supported and endorsed these guidelines. The framework includes guidance to ensure research is protected during further waves of the pandemic. Further information is available here: https://healthandcarereresearchwales.org/covid-19-updates

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a’r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip