

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: WAQ67543
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Andrew R T Davies AM
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20 September 2014

Deu Andrew,

Following your recent Written Assembly Question (WAQ67543) regarding the establishment of a GP Access Fund or similar scheme for Wales to reduce pressures on A and E services outside of normal general practice opening times, I confirmed that I would write to you about this matter and apologise for the delay in doing so.

I have no plans to establish a GP Access Fund in Wales. We are already taking action in those areas this Fund was set up to address. Urgent care from general practice outside normal opening hours is provided through our out of hours services. We issued revised national standards for these services in May this year, which health boards are progressively implementing. These services are an essential component of our unscheduled care system, and we are planning the introduction of a single point of access to these services through the 111 service from October 2015

Health boards are working very closely with general practice and other community based services to identify those people at increased risk of unplanned admission to hospital and to take preventative action to manage that risk. We have seen the results of this with the ongoing reduction in emergency hospital admissions for people with a basket of chronic conditions.

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I hope you find this information helpful.

Best wishes,

Mark

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