



All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Mark.lewis@parliament.uk
fasttrackcities@hiv.wales

May 2021

Eluned Morgan MS
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dear Minister for Health and Social Services

Congratulations on winning re-election and your appointment as Minister for Health and Social Services.

The work the Welsh Government have done over the past five years has been fantastic, what with the roll out of PrEP, supporting the Fast Track Cities initiative for Cardiff and Vale and being the first UK government to commit to ending new transmissions of HIV by 2030.

We are at a crucial point in the fight against HIV. It was encouraging to see you recommit to the 2030 target in your manifesto. It's crucial that work to achieve this historic goal of ending the domestic HIV epidemic is done by the four governments in the UK working together.

We will only achieve this one-off opportunity to end the domestic HIV epidemic if the HIV Action Plan is worthy of its name. We would urge you to work with the voluntary HIV sector and the clinicians to write the plan and publish it before the summer of 2022.

We would also urge you to consider our recommendations in relation to PrEP. We know PrEP IS nearly 100% effective when taken correctly and has played a key role in the recent declining numbers of new HIV transmissions in the UK.

The routine commissioning of PrEP is something that the Welsh Government can rightly be proud of. However, it is clear that if we are to meet the ambitious target of ending new transmissions of HIV by 2030, much wider awareness of, and access to PrEP needs to be ensured. A key foundation for this must be access to PrEP in wider health care settings other than just sexual health clinics, as we know particular vulnerable groups engage with these services less often.

In England, NHS England has begun initial discussions about the access of PrEP in community settings, specifically via community pharmacy.

We would welcome it if the Welsh Government would begin similar conversations in Wales. As you know there is a particular lack of dedicated services in mid-Wales and given poor public transport, many people have long journeys even in the rest of Wales, making face to face services difficult to access.

Stigma about sexual health is known to deter people from asking for time off from work to attend a clinic. No Welsh clinic that we are aware of currently offers online booking, web chat or weekend clinics (except for young people only, in two areas). Even before COVID-19, for an appointment at many clinics, people had to ring the clinic and take time off work for a face to face appointment.

We would urge the Welsh Government in addition to the excellent new postal HIV and STI testing service from Public Health Wales to explore the possibilities of HIV testing and PrEP in both GP surgeries and pharmacies in a similar way that contraception is often managed.

If you wish to discuss these issues in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be more than welcome to meet with you to discuss these proposals in more detail.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

Tonia Antoniazzi MP - Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS
Baroness Wilcox of Newport - Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS

Gian Molinu – Chair Fast Track Cardiff & Vale