



Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS
Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



Eluned Morgan MS,
Minister for Health and Social Services,
Welsh Government,
By Email

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URGENT

Re: Ultrasound Appointments

Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales

Dear Minister, Eluned,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my serious concerns about ultrasound appointments in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). Ultrasound appointments are an extremely important stage to both individuals and their loved ones. Indeed, it provides a key opportunity for parents to see their child. It is a happy event, but one that can also cause concern as it is a moment when some serious health conditions can be detected. Parents are advised to be prepared for such information, yet I am aware that some mothers are being denied the opportunity to have their partner or another individual of their choice by their side at ultrasound appointments.

Whilst I appreciate that BCUHB is trying its best to protect the health of all staff and patients by taking a number of measures in response to Covid-19, I am extremely concerned that they have not achieved a correct balance. Indeed, it doesn't strike me as reasonable that whilst a couple can sleep in the same bed, travel in the same car, hold hands whilst walking in to the hospital, they are then forced to split up with only the mother allowed to be present at an ultrasound appointment.

It is my understand that BCUHB are denying mothers the support they deserve. However, it seems that in doing so they may be following your advice in *Hospital visiting during the coronavirus outbreak guidance: June 2021*, which states:

'All scans: Women to attend scans alone. However essential support assistants able to attend to provide specified support. One nominated adult may accompany the woman attending where she requires familiar support for consultations which may cause her distress'.

Given the above, I would be grateful if you could amend the guidance so that it states that women can attend scans with one nominated adult.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS

Janet Finch-Saunders will deal with all personal data in accordance with her privacy notice which is available on www.janetfinchsaunders.org.uk/privacy or on request from my office.
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