

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref:WQ89998

Andrew RT Davies MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central

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18 December 2023

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your recent written question asking me if I was aware of how many children were on the waiting list as of October 2023.

October data will be published on 21 December at 09:30, so the latest available data is for the end of September 2023.

For answering this question, a child is anyone that is under the age of 18 years. At the end of September, there were 55,360 open pathways under the age of 18 years on the NHS referral to treatment waiting list. Of those open pathways, 13,364 were over 36 weeks, a reduction of 21% compared to the same time last year. 1,259 (2.3%) open pathways were waiting over two years, a reduction of 75% compared to April 2022 when we launched our planned care recovery plan.

Those specialities with open pathways over two years at the end of September were ENT, orthodontics, ophthalmology, trauma and orthopaedics, and these four specialities account for 77% of those open pathways over 104 weeks. There are a further nine specialities with fewer than 100 open pathways.

I have been clear with all health boards that I expect to see improvements in waiting times for children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
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Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.