



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ84942

Huw Irranca-Davies MS  
Senedd Member for Ogmore

[huw.Irranca-Davies@senedd.wales](mailto:huw.Irranca-Davies@senedd.wales)

13 April 2022

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your Written Question tabled on 1 April regarding plans to increase the number of pharmacists employed by NHS Wales. Please accept my apologies for the delay responding.

The number of pharmacists employed within NHS Wales is a matter for health boards and NHS trusts however we are committed to increasing the opportunities for pharmacists to train and work in Wales.

Unlike other healthcare professionals the number of undergraduate pharmacy training places in Wales are determined by Higher Education Institutes. Historically, Cardiff University was the only HEI in Wales to offer a Masters in Pharmacy (MPharm) degree programme, however since September Swansea University has also offered an MPharm programme significantly increasing Wales capacity for training pharmacists.

Following completion of undergraduate studies, all pharmacy graduates must undertake a period of pre-foundation training.

In 2020, the Welsh Government announced additional investment of £4.9m in a new pre-foundation programme operated by Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW). Since the introduction of HEIW's programme Wales has had gone from having one of the lowest to the highest fill rate of all training destinations in Great Britain. In 2020/21, HEIW offered 132 training places, up 39% on the previous year.

HEIW are currently planning changes to pharmacist training in line with to the General Pharmaceutical Council's updated requirements for Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists (IETP). This will further increase opportunities for pharmacists to train and work in the NHS in Wales.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales)

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.

In addition to the work to increase training opportunities for pharmacists, HEIW offers training for pharmacy technicians through its two-year modern apprenticeship Pre-Registration Pharmacy Technician Training Programme. I hope this information is useful in demonstrating our plans to ensure that Wales continues to be the most attractive place in the UK for the pharmacy workforce to train, work and live.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services