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



Llywodraeth Cymru

Welsh Government

Our ref: WQ89013

Andrew R.T. Davies MS Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales

6 October 2023

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking me how I intend to eliminate two-year Welsh NHS waits next year given that progress made since March suggests that the target will not be hit for another 2 to 3 years.

Since the launch of the planned care recovery plan: <u>Transforming and modernising planned</u> <u>care and reducing NHS waiting lists | GOV.WALES</u>, NHS Wales has delivered improvements every month against the commitment to eliminate over two-year waits.

June 2023 was the 15th consecutive month of improvement, with the number of over twoyear waits reducing by 60% from the high reached at the end of March 2022.

Health Boards have detailed plans for the reduction in waiting times and these are monitored on a weekly basis by the NHS Executive and WG officials.

The number of specialities which have waits over 2 years continues to reduce and we have seen average wait times across all areas decline to 19.3 weeks this year.

In June 2023, 96.2% of open pathways were waiting less than two years.

We are holding health boards to account for the delivery of the following milestones this year:

- At least 97% of open pathways to be waiting under two years by the end of **December 2023.**
- 99% of open pathways will be waiting under two years by the end of March 2024.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay Caerdydd • Cardiff CF99 1SN Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre: 0300 0604400 <u>Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru</u> 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.

With the increased demand for urgent and cancer referrals the Health Boards are constantly adjusting their capacity to ensure that the most clinically urgent patients are seen first whilst remaining focussed on the aim of reducing the numbers waiting over 2 years for treatment.

Yours sincerely,

M. E. Maga

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