



Our ref: WQ89013

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

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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: [Transforming and modernising planned care and reducing NHS waiting lists | GOV.WALES](#), NHS Wales has delivered improvements every month against the commitment to eliminate over two-year waits.

June 2023 was the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of improvement, with the number of over two-year 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**.

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,

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