

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Darren Millar MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Clwyd West

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Dear Darren

Thank you for your question to the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd during business questions on 10 May. I am grateful to you for drawing our attention to the fact that your constituent is unable to have their MRI scan within the bounds of their local Health Board. I am responding as this matter falls within my portfolio.

Pacemakers are not always compatible with MRI scanners due to the risk of device malfunction or tissue heating effects that can be caused by high magnetic fields, and manufacturers of pacemakers specify the conditions necessary for safe scanning of patients who have had these devices implanted.

I understand Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board intends to develop a local service for North Wales patients with pacemakers. Patient safety is paramount, and work is ongoing by multi-disciplinary experts to develop protocols and pathway to enable this. Whilst there is currently no fixed date for when the service will begin, my officials would be in regular contact with the Health Board to ensure satisfactory progress is being made and offer support as appropriate.

In terms of access to diagnostics testing in Wales, as I said in my statement on 26 April to Senedd on the publication of the planned care recovery plan, *Our programme for transforming and modernising planned care and reducing waiting lists in Wales*, we will prioritise diagnosis. There will be faster access, and by Spring 2024, we will have increased the speed of diagnostic tests and reporting to eight weeks.

Yours sincerely

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
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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.