



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ91165

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

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21 February 2024

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking how I will outline how the Welsh Government is supporting universities and academics in Wales in their research of cancer.

It is vital that Wales has a strong academic cancer research environment that can contribute high-quality research to tackle this global endeavour. Over the years, cancer has been the single biggest area of Welsh Government health research investment. We continue to invest significantly in key cancer research infrastructure within Welsh Universities such as the Wales Cancer Research Centre, the Wales Cancer Bank and the Centre for Trials Research (CTR).

With the support of Health and Care Research Wales, the Welsh research and wider stakeholder community worked collaboratively to develop a Cancer Research Strategy for Wales (CReSt), published in July 2022, which identifies areas of Welsh academic strength and sets a direction for cancer research in Wales.

CReSt provides a strategic platform for co-ordinating cancer research in Wales, identifying six priority research themes where there is a strong track record of research excellence and future opportunity. These themes are: precision and mechanistic oncology; immunology; radiotherapy; cancer clinical trials; palliative and supportive oncology; and population health-based cancer prevention, early diagnosis, primary care and health services research.

The Wales Cancer Research Centre (WCRC) is providing strategic oversight and coordination for the implementation of CReSt and I have provided up to £1m of extra funding to support the implementation of CReSt.

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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.

Earlier this month, I hosted a roundtable event bringing together leaders from across industry, health boards and our universities to embark on a new, innovative approach to prioritising our most challenging areas of cancer treatment through better research and innovation. Coordinated by the Life Sciences Hub Wales, we are forming collaborative working groups consisting of membership from academia, industry, cancer charities, government and health boards which will identify short and long-term actions to accelerate improvements in cancer outcomes.

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