

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



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Our ref: WQ91630

Gareth Davies MS  
Senedd Constituency Member for Vale of Clwyd

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21 March 2024

Dear Gareth,

I am writing in response to your Written Question what action the Welsh Government is taking to increase the uptake of bowel cancer screening.

The Welsh Government is expanding the bowel screening programme to offer screening to more people. As of October 2023, men and women who are registered with a GP practice in Wales aged between 51-74 have been offered screening. We intend to reduce the starting age to 50 this year. Once the programme is fully optimised, many more bowel cancers will be identified at earlier, more easily treatable stages.

Uptake has increased significantly since we introduced an easier-to-use faecal immunochemical test (FIT) into the screening programme in 2019 and has remained above standard. The Bowel Screening Wales programme continually looks for ways to improve uptake through working with primary care services and engaging with communities, particularly where uptake is lowest.

Yours sincerely,

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

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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.