

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a'r
Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Social Care and Welsh
Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQs 93519 & 93520

Mabon ap Gwynfor MS
Member of the Senedd for Dwyfor Meirionnydd

Mabon.ap.Gwynfor@senedd.wales

30 July 2024

Annwyl Mabon

I am responding to your written questions, WQ93519: What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of the impact of maintenance backlogs across the NHS Estate on patient and staff safety and WQ93520: What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of the impact on plans to address the maintenance backlog across the NHS Estate of the expected 5 per cent real terms reduction in the Welsh Government's capital budget from 2024-25 to 2028-29 due to the new UK Government's spending plans?

Ensuring the NHS estate is fit for purpose is essential for patient and staff safety and the delivery of efficient healthcare services. I continue to provide funding to address the highest risks and target backlog maintenance to maintain business continuity, wherever possible. Within the capital funding available the challenge is to balance backlog requirements, while supporting other key developments to improve services, including measures to reduce waiting lists.

The NHS All-Wales Capital Programme funds schemes across the NHS for local and national priorities. NHS Wales organisations have a discretionary capital funding allocation each year to manage compliance and operational issues, including reducing backlog across sites.

Additional capital was recently identified as part of the final budget position for 2024-25, enabling me to approve, on 2 July, capital funding of £32.7m to target backlog maintenance issues across the NHS Wales estate. However, it is important to note that most, if not all capital schemes, which include fabric or building improvements, reduce backlog maintenance.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
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.

The NHS in Wales is currently reporting backlog maintenance, based on 2022-23 data, of c.£1.2bn, across the estate. This is related to the age of the estate and inflationary pressures due to increased costs of materials and equipment. The backlog is categorised from high to low risk and the data is captured by NHS Shared Services Partnership – Specialist Estate Services (NWSSP-SES) as technical advisors to the NHS. It supports organisations with advice linked to engineering, fire, safety compliance and risks.

My officials are currently reviewing organisational capital priorities and I will continue to make the case for increased capital investment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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