



Our ref: WQ90726

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

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13 February 2024

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking if the Welsh Government will be publishing the de-escalation and sustainability criteria and the timeframe in which improvement can be expected when the escalation status of NHS bodies and services gets raised.

On the 23 January 2024, I published the revised oversight and escalation framework. This sets out how Welsh Government maintains oversight and gains assurance of NHS organisations. In order to ensure there is clarity the framework describes the approach to intervention and de-escalation. An escalation framework will be agreed with the health board that sets out the criteria for de-escalation. We would expect health board's to share these with their Board and for them to be published as part of their board papers.

For some organisations the agreement of the de-escalation criteria is dependent upon clarity of the real issues that need to be addressed. For example, these have not yet been agreed for Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board yet as the focus for the last 12 months has been on stabilising the Board through short-term priorities and understanding the challenges in the organisation. These will be reflected in de-escalation criteria shortly. We have however, published their quarterly priorities. These are accessible via the escalation and intervention arrangements web pages and provide regular update to Senedd members on progress.

Welsh Government officials will work with the health board to support them in delivering the actions and improvements required. It is important that the health boards robustly address these issues and we will closely monitor, challenge and review progress.

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