



Our ref: WQ92223

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of the Senedd for Aberconwy

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Dear Janet,

Thank you for your recent Written Question: "What is the Welsh Government doing to address the limited number of NHS dental appointments available in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board?"

Health boards hold the budgets and responsibility for the provision of NHS dental services in their area. We continue to work with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to address gaps in service provision through their operational plans. Significant and substantive changes take time and require financial investment which is difficult in the current financial climate.

We are working on system reform in dentistry to make improvements for the public and the profession. Reform focuses practices on prevention and needs based care rather than routine six-monthly check-ups for all. This is because we know that tooth decay and gum disease are largely preventable through good toothbrushing and reduced frequency of sugar intake.

The capacity released by this shift is available to provide new patient access, both for those who want to receive continuing care from an NHS dental team, or urgent care capacity for people who want a particular dental need resolved but opt-out of receiving continuing care.

Since April 2022, more than 320,000 new patients have gained access to an NHS dentist across Wales, including nearly 62,000 people in the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board area.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol

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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.