

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ96446

Janet Finch-Saunders  
Member of the Senedd for Aberconwy

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17 June 2025

Dear Janet

I am replying to WQ96446: What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of the effectiveness and suitability of neonatal services at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board?

There is considerable oversight across the health board due to the health board's special measures status. I meet with the chair of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to discuss areas of concern and to gain assurances that the health board is making progress in line with the special measures framework.

The Welsh Government holds a quality and delivery meeting with the health board each month and every quarter this features a detailed in-depth review of maternity and neonatal services.

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) undertook an unannounced inspection of the maternity unit at Ysbyty Gwynedd in February and identified immediate assurance concerns relating to the medical handover for intrapartum care and training compliance completion by some obstetricians. HIW published its final report on 5 June.

To improve the safety, experience, and outcomes of maternity and neonatal care for women, babies and families across Wales, we established a Maternity and Neonatal Safety Support Programme in 2022. NHS Performance and Improvement is leading the implementation of this programme, in partnership with health boards, the Wales Ambulance Service and stakeholders, with a clear focus on improving the experiences and outcomes for women, babies and their families.

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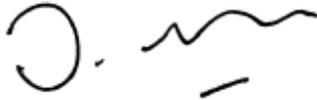
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

The [Quality Statement for Maternity and Neonatal services](#) sets out what good looks like in Wales and what outcomes and standards pregnant women, mothers-to-be and their families can expect to receive when accessing care. Maternity and neonatal services provided by all health boards in Wales will need to make improvements to meet its ambitions.

I also refer you to my [statement to Plenary about maternity services on 13 May](#) about the further work the Welsh Government is doing to review standards in maternity and neonatal units.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care