



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ83271 & WQ83273

Joel James MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central

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Dear Joel

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me what steps Welsh Government are taking to encourage women who have symptoms of ovarian cancer to contact their GP following the easing of coronavirus restrictions. You also asked: 'Given that there is no viable screening process to detect ovarian cancer, what steps are being taken to address the lack of symptom awareness in Wales'.

We are committed to improving the care of people with ovarian cancer. The NHS in Wales has agreed a 'nationally optimised pathway' for ovarian cancer and services are reviewed through the cancer peer review programme. These pieces of work are part of our broader approach to improving care and outcomes set out in the Quality Statement for Cancer: <https://gov.wales/quality-statement-cancer>. This includes the introduction of vague symptom pathways and rapid diagnostic centres.

The early detection of cancer is a complex matter that involves a combination of patient awareness, preparedness to act, access to primary care advice, ability to assess, willingness to refer, and timely access to effective diagnostic tests. This is made difficult by the vague and non-specific nature of many cancer symptoms that mimic more common and less serious conditions. The Welsh Government, NHS and third sector have delivered a number of campaigns during the pandemic that encourage people to access services when they need to. This has included specific activity focused on cancer and referrals for cancer have recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

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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.