



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ81296

Neil McEvoy MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

6 February 2021

Dear Neil,

I am writing in response to coronavirus-related Written Questions, which you submitted and have not yet received an answer. Please accept my apologies for the time it has taken to respond to this question.

WQ81296: How many cancer appointments have been cancelled in Wales in 2020, broken down by month and health board?

All health boards have restricted services throughout the pandemic in order to cope with the demand of COVID-19 related care. In the first wave of the pandemic, all non-urgent planned care was suspended. Wherever possible, urgent cancer activity continued. Prior to Christmas 2020, a written statement and framework was published that allowed health boards to make local decisions on service availability, allowing them to respond with greater agility to local pressures on their services.

The Welsh Government does not routinely collect data on the number of cancer patients whose appointments and surgery has been delayed and for what reason. Throughout the pandemic, health boards have made use of the technology available, such as video and telephone consultations to enable outpatient appointments to continue without putting the patient at any extra risk. However, where necessary, face-to-face appointments have continued.

I have made it clear from the start of the pandemic, that all urgent work, including urgent cancer activity, should continue where it was safe and in the best interest of the patient to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.