



Our ref: WQ92314

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

AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales

8 April 2024

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your recent Written Question below:

“Will the Minister make a statement on the reasons for two-year waits for treatment still standing at just over 23,400 in Wales, compared to only 376 in England”?

In April 2022 when we published our commitment to reduce long waits, there were over 68,000 pathways waiting longer than two years (10% of the total waiting list). The number has fallen in every month since then and in January 2024 2-year waits accounted for just 3% of the total. The Welsh NHS has delivered on a much more challenging agenda with an older, sicker and poorer population.

I note the England data indicates that their over 2- year waits have increased since you asked the same question in February. From 227 to 376 a 65% increase.

We have always prioritised the most urgent cases and average monthly referrals for suspected cancer have increased by 51% since 2020. Much of the diagnostic capacity for those on elective waiting lists has been used up by those with more urgent cancer referrals. It should also be noted that in England waits for diagnostic treatment and therapies are not included in their figures.

Despite the growth in demand and the recognised older population, Wales has continued to reduce the growth in the total waiting list in the last month. This continues the trend in growth management compared to England. In the last twelve months the overall waiting list in Wales went up by only 2.9%, compared with 5.6% in England.

Yours sincerely,

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.