

Delyth Jewell AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog dros Ofal Cymdeithasol, Iechyd Meddwl
ac Iechyd Menywod
Deputy Minister for Social Care, Mental Health and Women's
Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: WQ100076

Joshua Kim MS
Member of the Senedd for Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni

Joshua.Kim-MS@senedd.wales

3 September 2026

Dear Joshua,

I am replying to your written question (WQ100076) asking what action the Welsh Government will take through its forthcoming National Cancer Strategy to improve breast screening uptake and address inequalities.

Our commitment to developing a 10-year National Cancer Strategy reflects this Government's determination to transform the way we prevent, diagnose and treat cancer in Wales. The Strategy will set out an ambitious vision for cancer services and provide the NHS with the clarity it needs to achieve better outcomes and experiences for people affected by cancer.

A key priority of the Strategy will be improving early diagnosis and addressing inequities in access to care. This includes strengthening participation in established screening programmes, such as Breast Test Wales, which plays an important role in detecting breast cancer at an earlier stage, when treatment is often more effective.

The national target for breast cancer screening uptake is 70%, meaning that at least 70% of women invited for screening should attend within six months of invitation, as set by the UK National Screening Committee. Improving participation continues to be a priority for the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales. Public Health Wales and Breast Test Wales continuously assess and implement interventions to support uptake, with a growing emphasis on reducing inequalities and targeting groups where participation is lowest.

Whilst Breast Test Wales has taken action to improve uptake in recent years, we recognise variation persists, particularly across geographies, age demographics and social gradients of deprivation. The National Cancer Strategy will seek to address unwarranted variation and improve uptake and early detection through national screening programmes.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone who is eligible for breast screening to take up their invitation. Anyone who notices a change in their breasts should contact their GP without delay.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delyth Jewell', written on a light blue rectangular background.

Delyth Jewell AS/MS

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