

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

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ100090(e) / WQ100091(e)

Andrew RT Davies MS
Senedd Constituency Member
Welsh Conservative Party
Pen-y-bont Bro Morgannwg

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22 September 2026

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your Written Questions and apologise for the delay in issuing these replies.

WQ100090: What discussions have Welsh Government officials had with representatives of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board about the suspension of the NHS home birth service at Tirion birth centre?

In response to your question above I can confirm that Welsh Government officials met senior representatives of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board on 30 July 2026 to discuss workforce pressures affecting maternity services and the Health Board's proposed temporary suspension of the home birth service and intrapartum services at Tirion Birth Centre. Welsh Government received formal written notification of the suspension following the Health Board's decision later that day.

Officials have remained in regular contact with the Health Board. Discussions have focused on staffing resilience, governance, support for women and families affected by the suspension, and plans to restore services safely and sustainably. Welsh Government has also sought assurance on risk management, recovery planning and the provision of clear information for women and families.

The Health Board has confirmed that intrapartum care at Tirion Birth Centre resumed on 9 September 2026 following a review of staffing capacity. The home birth service remains temporarily suspended, with a phased restoration plan aiming to reintroduce home births from the week commencing 21 September 2026, subject to continued staffing resilience and service safety.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno 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.

Officials will continue to monitor the position closely and maintain assurance that women and families are appropriately supported and that safe maternity services are maintained across the Health Board area.

WQ100091: What action is the Welsh Government taking to recruit more midwives in the Welsh NHS, in light of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board's suspension of the NHS home birth service at Tirion birth centre?

Midwives play a vital role in delivering safe, high quality and sustainable maternity services across NHS Wales. The Welsh Government continues to invest in education and training through Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) to support the recruitment, training and retention of the midwifery workforce.

Ensuring appropriate and safe staffing levels across maternity services is essential to providing high-quality care and maintaining patient safety and I expect health boards to plan and deploy their workforce to ensure services are staffed safely and sustainably.

In addition, all health boards in Wales are expected to be staffed by Birthrate Plus standards, which is a nationally recognised, NICE endorsed assessment model for midwifery staffing.

In response to the challenges faced by some graduates this year in securing roles, the Cabinet Minister for Health and Care convened a Graduate Employment Summit in June 2026. The summit brought together NHS Wales organisations, HEIW and education providers to agree immediate and longer-term actions.

HEIW continues to coordinate the all-Wales response, working with NHS Wales organisations, universities, the Welsh Government and professional bodies to maximise employment opportunities and support graduates who have not yet secured employment. This includes careers and wellbeing advice, CV and interview preparation, access to learning resources and professional support.

While the position has improved considerably for nursing graduates, challenges remain for some professions, including midwifery. The Welsh Government, HEIW and NHS Wales organisations continue to explore all available options to support graduates and identify further opportunities wherever possible.

Yours sincerely,



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