



Our ref: WQ85969 & WQ85970

Rhys ab Owen MS
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

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7 September 2022

Dear Rhys

Thank you for your recent written questions asking me to provide an update on lost hours in the Welsh Ambulance Service and asking me what action was carried out by the Welsh Government following the work of the Ambulance Availability Task Force.

In January 2020, the previous Minister for Health and Social Services [announced](#) he had commissioned a Ministerial Ambulance Availability Taskforce (MAAT) with a clear remit to coordinate and drive a whole-system focus on improvement for emergency ambulance services.

Following receipt of the Taskforce's report in June 2021, I met with its co-chairs to discuss key priorities identified in the report and existing governance structures within the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) that could drive rapid delivery of these priorities. At that point, the Taskforce was assimilated into these structures, thereby terminating it as a Ministerial group.

In July 2021, I convened a special meeting of the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee, at which I tasked members to develop a time-bound delivery plan, outlining how the priorities identified by the Taskforce would be delivered, with key milestones in readiness for winter, and the medium term.

On 8 July, I issued a [written statement](#) outlining progress against delivery of the Six Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care Programme, including the development of a refreshed and enhanced national ambulance improvement plan, setting out a range of actions for the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust (WAST), Health Boards, and actions for joint delivery.

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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.

Health Boards and WAST will be held to account for delivery against the national ambulance improvement plan through regular Integrated Quality, Planning and Delivery (IQPD) meetings held with each health board.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services