



Eich cyf/Your ref WQ95611 and WQ95613

Darren Millar
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

20 February 2024

Dear Darren,

I wrote to you to indicate that I would provide you with a substantive response to WQ95611 and WQ95613:

Has the First Minister read the Royal College of Nursing's 'On the frontline of the UK's corridor care crisis' report?

Does the First Minister recognise the Director of the Royal College of Nursing in Wales' statement, in light of the 'On the frontline of the UK's corridor care crisis' report, that there's a crisis happening in hospitals across Wales because people are being treated in unsafe, undignified and unacceptable environments?

I am aware of the significant challenges facing the health and care sectors in Wales – pressures which face the NHS in all parts of the UK.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care has Ministerial responsibility for the NHS in Wales and has met the Royal College of Nursing to discuss corridor care and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine to discuss pressures on emergency departments.

We do not support the routine provision of care or treatment in non-clinical or unsuitable environments, nor any circumstances that compromise the quality of care, privacy, or dignity of patients. However, during periods of exceptional pressure – such as increased demand, public health emergencies, or capacity challenges – there may be occasions when individuals experience extended waits in emergency departments, medical assessment units, or similar settings while awaiting a hospital or community bed.

We are committed to working with the NHS to improving flow through the health and care system. Measures include:

1. The [Six Goals for Emergency Care Programme](#) to enable the right care, in the right place, first time.

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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.

2. Improving patient flow – more than £140m has been allocated for health and social care integration and £10m to expand community nursing and care.
3. A revised framework is in place to manage system pressures and reduce emergency department overcrowding.
4. Daily system reviews are in place to ensure timely and dignified care.
An extra £27m has been invested this year to in emergency care priorities.

Eluned Morgan