



Our ref: WQ82491& WQ82492

Mark Isherwood MS
Senedd Regional Member for North Wales

Mark.Isherwood@senedd.wales

21 September 2021

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me to confirm the total number of people waiting for cataract surgery (for each local health board and including how long people are waiting to be seen) and asking what Welsh Government is doing to reduce the waiting times for cataract surgery. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

The Welsh Government does not collect condition specific data. We only collect data at a speciality level. Therefore, the number of people waiting for cataract surgery would be included within the number of people waiting for ophthalmology treatment and can be found at <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Waiting-Times/Referral-to-Treatment/patientpathwayswaitingtostarttreatment-by-month-groupedweeks-treatmentfunction>.

In terms of actions the Welsh Government is taking to reduce waiting times for cataract surgery. I have recently announced an additional £140 million is to be allocated to health boards and trusts to address the backlog of patients that has built up during the pandemic. This is on top of the £100 million that was announced in March and health boards have been using the money to send patients to alternative providers, as well as increasing capacity locally. I have also asked health boards to work together to develop regional solutions to address the backlog.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau 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.

Minister for Health and Social Services