



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ100391

Shav Taj
Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf

18 September 2026

Dear Shav

I write in response to your written question submitted for answer on 09 September 2026 as follows:

Will the Cabinet Minister share the impact assessment that was undertaken before the decision was taken to suspend all case referrals through the Welsh Gender Service?

I apologise for the delay in responding, but I wanted to ensure that the relevant information had been published by the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NHJCC) before I responded.

The NWJCC is responsible for ensuring the quality and safety of the services that it commissions. NWJCC Committee papers and Sub Committee papers are published here [Committee Meeting Papers - NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee](#).

These include the most up-to-date information regarding the escalation of the service with accompanying impact assessments.

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Minister for Social Justice and Equality, and I met with the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) on 4 September. The purpose of the meeting was to seek clarity on the Committee's decision to pause gender-affirming surgery and referrals for surgery. I received assurance that this was a clinically led decision due primarily to the data showing higher rates of referral from Wales but lower rates of progression to some surgeries. It is important that the NWJCC understands the reasons for this, and that is the purpose of the urgent clinical review of patients on the waiting list.

I also received assurance that this is a pause, not a stop. I expect the urgent clinical review to be undertaken at pace to minimise disruption for patients.

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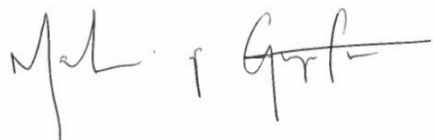
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I have also written to the Chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and received further assurance on the support being provided for those affected by the pause.

I have been clear that whilst this process needs to be evidenced and clinically led, disruption for individuals on the waiting list must be minimised. I expect both the NWJCC and the health board to take forward any required actions as a priority.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mabon ap Gwynfor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mabon ap Gwynfor AS/MS

Gweinidog Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal
Cabinet Minister for Health and Care