



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ98221

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of the Senedd for Aberconwy

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4 March 2026

Dear Janet,

I am replying to your written question (WQ98221) asking for an update on how the Welsh Government is reducing waiting times for cancer treatments.

Monthly accountability meetings take place with each health board specifically about cancer performance, with support from NHS Performance and Improvement and oversight from the National Cancer Leadership Board. Two health boards have been de-escalated following sustained improvement. I set this out in a [written statement](#) on 18 February.

The National Cancer Leadership Board also oversees the implementation of the Ministerial Advisory Group on NHS Performance and Productivity recommendations for cancer. This includes improvements to data to manage cancer pathways and changes to service models to investigate suspected cancer, such as, the inclusion of tests with referrals for suspected colorectal cancer, the inclusion of images with suspected skin cancer referrals, alternative pathways for breast pain only, and alternative pathways for post-menopausal bleeding on hormone replacement therapy.

These approaches are supporting health boards to see more people with cancer within the cancer waiting time target through better targeting of available capacity to investigate and treat cancer.

The Welsh Government has invested tens of millions of pounds in new cancer facilities, equipment, digital systems, workforce and training, treatments, screening and diagnostic services to improve access and quality of care.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

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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.