



Eich cyf/Your ref WQ82974 / WQ82975

Russell George MS

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12 August 2021

Dear Russell

Following the holding replies you received on 23 July please find below substantive answers to the following written questions:-

Will the Minister outline the results of the COVID-19 green sites review conducted by Welsh health boards in summer 2020, when they were completed and what the results were? (WQ82974)

Will the Minister outline a timeframe for when the Welsh Government will assess and publish the alternative ideas to COVID-lite hubs provided by health boards, as mentioned in Plenary on 7 July? (WQ82975)

All health and social care settings have processes in place to segregate patients. Health Boards are responsible for operational decisions about the provision of care for patients in the NHS. The recent rise in Covid cases means that there needs to be careful consideration about patient management and safety, taking into consideration the risks to patients who may be vulnerable to contracting Covid. This will be considered on a case by case basis and will inevitably mean some operations are cancelled.

The availability of critical care, reduced staffing levels due to sickness and the need to isolate and the need to segregate Covid patients continues to impact on the overall capacity available across hospital sites.

The NHS in Wales will continue to review their experiences of managing the pandemic over the last 18 months and evidence from elsewhere, using that experience and learning in their planning going forward

LHBs have developed proposals in their Annual Plans which were submitted at the end of June and are currently being reviewed. The plans include the development of protected elective surgical units (PESU) Green Zones to keep patients safe and maintain essential major surgery throughout the pandemic and winter period.

Cardiff and Vales UHB reported that the success of the Green Zones is a future template for complex elective care (i.e. a “hospital within a hospital”). This has ensured that as much non-Covid activity as possible takes place in a safe space.

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