



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ80548

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

21 June 2020

Dear Janet,

I'm writing in response to WQ80548: Will the Minister confirm by when each local health board is expected to conclude their reviews into the availability of hospital facilities for non-Covid related treatment?

I issued an NHS Wales COVID-19 operating framework for quarter 1 (2020/21) on 6<sup>th</sup> May, providing the NHS in Wales with detail on the actions to be taken across the health and social care system, with the aim of maintaining momentum. This included a focus on:

- Harm from COVID-19 itself
- Harm from an overwhelmed NHS and social care system
- Harm from a reduction in non COVID-19 activity
- Harm from a wider societal actions / lockdown

Health boards and NHS trusts submitted their plans for quarter 1 on 18<sup>th</sup> May. These plans included the introduction of COVID free zones or 'green zones' to ensure patients can be cared for as safely as possible.

It is also important to note that health boards and NHS trusts will continue to monitor their capacity requirements closely and will be adapting their plans in response to local pressures. There is still more to be done and I issued the Q2 Operating Framework on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, which requires a further focus on their capacity assumptions, based on their scenario planning. These plans are expected in early July.

These plans are aimed at ensuring the continued provision of essential key health and care services, together with a careful and cautious approach to re-commencing the more routine services when it is appropriate and safe to do so.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services