

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a
Gofal Cymdeithasol**

—
**Health and Social Care
Committee**

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Eluned Morgan MS
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Government

22 November 2021

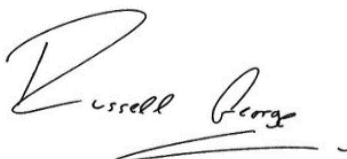
Dear Eluned

Additional funding for NHS planned care services

On 4 November 2021, you announced an additional £170m annual funding for planned NHS care and the creation of a £1m Planned Care Innovation Fund. While we welcome this additional funding, we would appreciate clarification on the issues set out in the annex to this letter. We would be grateful for a response by **Thursday 2 December**.

In addition, you will be aware that the Health and Social Care Committee is currently holding an inquiry into the impact of the waiting times backlog on people in Wales who are waiting for diagnosis or treatment. My clerk will be in contact with your officials shortly to issue an invitation for you to attend an oral evidence session in the new year, and to discuss the timescales for written evidence on the issues within the inquiry's terms of reference.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

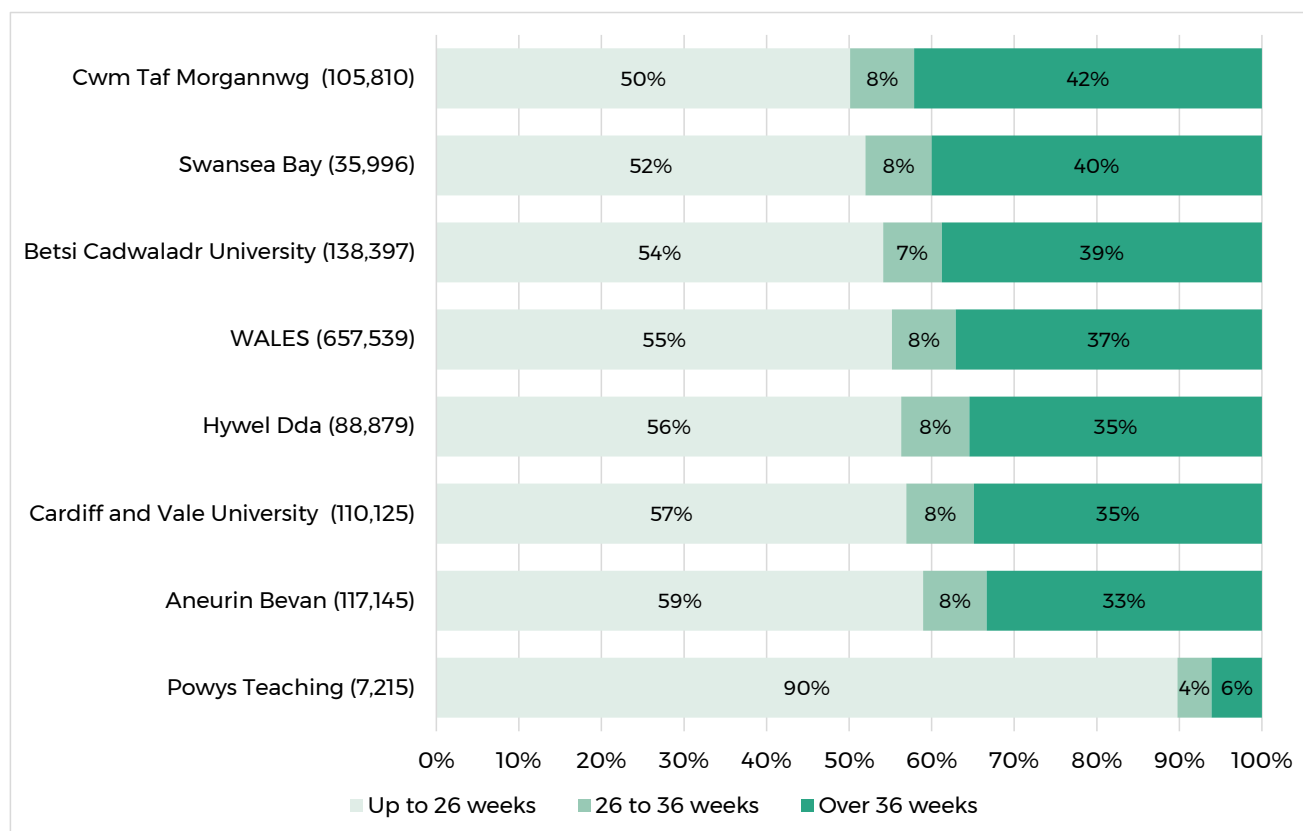
Annex: additional funding for NHS planned care services

Following the [announcement on 4 November 2021](#) of additional funding for NHS planned care services, we would welcome further information on the matters listed below. We would be grateful to receive your response by Thursday 2 December.

Funding allocation

We note from the waiting times statistics published by StatsWales in October 2021, illustrated in the below figure prepared by Senedd Research, that there is some variation across health boards in respect of the percentage of patient pathways waiting over 36 weeks to begin treatment.

Figure 1 Percentage of patient pathways waiting less than 26 weeks, 26 to 36 weeks and over 36 weeks to start treatment by LHB; April 2019 to August 2021



Source: StatsWales, [Patient pathways waiting to start treatment by month, grouped weeks and stage of pathway](#) (figure prepared by Senedd Research)

1. What factors may be contributing to the variation in the length of time people are waiting to start treatment in different health board areas, and what role does the Welsh Government have in facilitating the sharing of learning and innovation between health boards?
2. The £170m is to be divided equally between health boards on a population basis. In determining this allocation, what account has been taken of any variation in the demographics, degree of deprivation or the extent of the waiting times backlogs in each health board?

3. The additional £170m is described as annual funding; for how many years do you expect this funding be available?
4. You have asked health boards to develop plans for how they will use this funding to transform their services; when do you anticipate these plans will be published, and what period do you expect the plans to cover?