

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol](#) ar [Effaith yr ôl-groniad o ran amseroedd aros ar bobl yng Nghymru sy'n aros am ddiagnosis neu driniaeth](#)

This response was submitted to the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) consultation on the [impact of the waiting times backlog on people in Wales who are waiting for diagnosis or treatment](#)

WT 08

Ymateb gan: | Response from: Archwilio Cymru | Audit Wales



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Dear Russell

Waiting Times Backlog

Thank you for your letter of 22nd November 2021 and the Committee's interest in my work on planned NHS care. This work is still ongoing and we have expanded the original timescales to allow us to capture the necessary information from NHS bodies on the plans they are putting in place to start to tackle the waiting list backlogs, and to help us better understand some of the challenges they are facing in trying to do so.

We have indeed prepared an interactive data tool as part of our planned care work. The data tool contains information on the total number of people on waiting lists and how long they have waited. The data is provided at the all-Wales and individual health board level. The data tool also shows the waiting times for different specialties and at different stages of waiting time "pathway". Whilst the data tool was initially developed to assist my audit team with its enquiries, we believe it will be of interest to a wider audience and provide a user-friendly way of accessing waiting time data to inform dialogue, debate and scrutiny within the NHS, and more broadly.

It is my intention to publish my current findings on planned care in the form of a high-level commentary by the middle of March 2022, subject to NHS bodies and Welsh

Government having the capacity to engage with the draft output and provide us with clearance comments. I intend to make the data tool publicly available at that point. That will allow my team to make some further refinements to the data tool between now and publication.

Although it is not yet publicly available, I would be more than happy to share the latest version of the data tool with the Committee clerks so that they can get a sense of the extent to which it may be of help to the Committee's inquiry. At the very least it may help them identify some headline figures around different aspects of the waiting time position to inform the Committee's reporting. Dave Thomas, the Audit Director who is overseeing the work, will make contact with the clerking team to see if this would be helpful. We would certainly welcome any views the clerks have on the data tool itself as we can take these on board as part of the work to finalise it.

My team are still pulling together the findings from our current work on planned care. However, we would expect those to confirm that the issues identified in my September 2020 report, Ten Opportunities for Resetting and Restarting the NHS Planned Care System, are still relevant and could usefully be drawn upon to inform the Committee's inquiry.

I trust the above is helpful. Please don't hesitate to get back in touch if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely



ADRIAN CROMPTON
Auditor General for Wales