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**Health and Social Care
Committee**

Eluned Morgan
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Government

8 July 2022

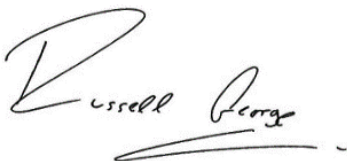
Dear Eluned

Follow up on Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recommendations: Endoscopy services in Wales

In April 2019, the Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee published a report of its inquiry into endoscopy services in Wales. At our meeting on 4 May 2022, the current Health and Social Care Committee agreed to follow up on the key recommendation made by our predecessor Committee.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the issues raised in the annex by **1 September 2022**.

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: Recommendations made by the Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee as part of its inquiry into endoscopy services in Wales

Background

The Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee of the published a report of its inquiry into [endoscopy services in Wales](#) in April 2019.

The Committee made one overarching recommendation, which was [accepted by the Welsh Government](#): by October 2019, the Welsh Government should work with the National Endoscopy Improvement Programme to create and publish a national endoscopy action plan that addresses current and future demand for services with clear timescales and targets for improvement, to be overseen by the National Endoscopy Programme Board.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the issues below by **1 September 2022**.

Update on recommendation

1. Please provide an update on progress in implementing the national endoscopy action plan, including:
 - a. The current position for optimising the bowel cancer screening programme (i.e. for increasing FIT sensitivity and age testing) and how this compares to other parts of the UK.
 - b. Whether changes in the programme so far have increased referrals for endoscopic procedures.
 - c. An update on plans for introducing FIT in primary care.
 - d. Efforts to address health inequalities, particularly to increase uptake among men in deprived areas.
 - e. The extent to which workforce issues are being addressed.
 - i. including details of the health boards that have JAG accreditation, and
 - ii. the reasons why some endoscopy units in Wales still haven't achieved it.
 - f. An update on endoscopy service facilities and infrastructure.

Other issues

2. Please outline the impact COVID-19 has had on delivery of the national endoscopy action plan and any implications this has had for patient outcomes.

3. To what extent are endoscopy services being prioritised in the planned care recovery plan? What are the timescales and targets for improvement (including plans to tackle the waiting times backlog for diagnostics, as well as high risk patients requiring ongoing surveillance endoscopic procedures (demand and capacity planning).

