

Professor Dyfed Wyn Huws
Director
Wales Cancer Surveillance and Intelligence Unit

11 July 2023

Dear Dyfed

Gynaecological cancers follow-up

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee on 29 June 2023. We would be grateful if you could provide some further information as set out below.

During the meeting you said that there is “a misunderstanding regarding cancer information”. Our understanding is that Digital Health and Care Wales collect the raw data and collate it at a national level. This is then shared with WCISU to quality assure to international research standards and to analyse and publish the relevant data on incidence, mortality and survival etc (as set out in its statutory responsibilities). The NHS delivery unit (now part of the NHS Executive) is responsible for service specific data i.e. waiting times data for gynaecological cancers, which isn't disaggregated.

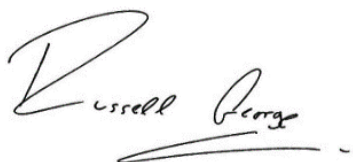
- Can you confirm whether our understanding is correct?

You also said the survival rates for ovarian cancer are among the worst in UK and cervical cancer survival rates have worsened. You gave one of the reasons for this as being that “too many women are being diagnosed late and through emergency departments”.

- Do you have any data or further information you can share with us on this trend?

We would be grateful if you could provide this information by 21 August 2023 to help inform our scrutiny of the Minister for Health and Social Services in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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