

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a
Gofal Cymdeithasol**

**Health and Social Care
Committee**

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Eluned Morgan MS

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

22 May 2024

Dear Eluned

You will recall that, in June 2022, the Committee published its report, *Hospital discharge and its impact on patient flow through hospitals*. The report highlighted the importance of good patient flow through health and social care services in improving the quality of care for patients. It also drew attention to the severe lack of capacity in our social care system, meaning that some patients who are ready for discharge are remaining in hospital. These delayed transfers of care are detrimental to both the individual and the flow of patients through the hospital, and contribute to pressure on A&E departments and ambulance services.

At our meeting on 15 May, we took evidence from the Welsh Ambulance Services University Trust. When asked about delays in response times, they told us

"what causes the response delays is our inability to hand over patients at the emergency department, and what causes that problem is the fact that there's a problem with flow through the hospital, through the emergency department into the hospital and back out into the community, particularly in adult social care."

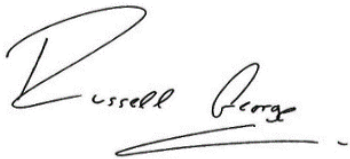
They also told us that the average handover time at the emergency department is in excess of two hours, when it should be taking 15 minutes.



**Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament**

In light of this, the Committee would welcome an update on progress in implementing the recommendations of our report and the actions being taken by the Welsh Government to improve patient flow through hospitals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Russell George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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