



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1471
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/10084/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

08 October 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Petition P-06-1471 Outlaw Ambulances from being used as extra beds for Hospitals

Thank you for your letter of 17 September regarding the above petition.

The Welsh Government's has been explicit with health boards that it is not acceptable for people to be kept waiting long periods in ambulances outside emergency departments.

Ambulance handover delays can impact on patient experience and the ability of ambulance crews to respond to calls in the community. Health boards have plans in place to reduce the number of handover delays supported by additional funding from the Welsh Government.

But ambulance handover delays are often symptomatic of delays elsewhere in the healthcare system. We must see further action from health boards and local government to reduce the number of people who are experiencing delayed discharges from hospital as this will help to improve the flow of people through the health and care system and in turn reduce delays at front door of the hospital.

Our national *Six Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care* programme is developing alternative community pathways and services to ensure people receive the right care in the right place first time, which doesn't always mean they will go to an emergency department.

We are investing more than £180m this year to support health boards and regional partnership boards to safely manage more people in the community. This will help to unlock ambulance capacity and improve responsiveness. We are monitoring progress made by health boards very closely and have observed improvement over recent months. We expect to see further improvements in reducing the longest delays over the coming weeks and months.

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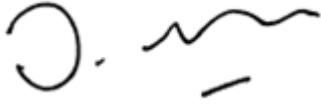
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care