



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1534
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/02998/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee

05 December 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November about **Petition P-06-1534 'End corridor care in Wales'**. I note a debate is scheduled for 10 December.

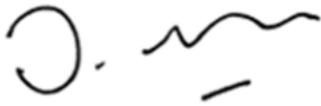
As part of the work to refresh the NHS Wales Framework for Urgent and Emergency Care System Escalation (December 2024), a dedicated working group developed shared definitions for boarding, surge capacity, and outliers to ensure clarity and uniformity across healthcare settings in Wales. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) was part of the working group and agreed the following definitions:

- **Boarding**: Temporarily exceeding the commissioned working capacity of a ward/unit by utilising a non-configured space in anticipation of an upcoming discharge or transfer. This is a time-limited measure.
- **Surge Capacity**: Implementation of additional bed spaces based on a risk-assessed approach, activated in response to anticipated spikes in demand.
- **Outliers**: Patients receiving care in a hospital bed not designated for their specialty or treatment needs.

In terms of data collection, it is the responsibility of health boards to capture operational data in relation to hospital capacity and the prevalence of individuals cared for in non-clinical environments. This should be used dynamically to take immediate action, aligned to local and national escalation frameworks, to reduce the risk of harm. This data is not held nationally.

As I set out in my previous response to the committee on 20 October, to support delivery of improved ambulance patient handover times and flow through acute hospitals, further consideration is being given to our national escalation processes and strengthening accountability through the national daily system call. More robust and consistent reporting by health boards is expected over the coming weeks to support the safe local delivery of services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large '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