



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00061/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

14 February 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 8 January on behalf of the Petitions Committee about Petition P-05-940 Reduce cancelled operations.

Firstly, please pass on my condolences to Ms Walker on the loss of her son, I appreciate how difficult a time this must have been for her and her family.

The Welsh Government recognises the distress having a planned operation postponed has on a patient. For this reason, there is a commitment whereby any patient that has their operation postponed on more than one occasion by the hospital for non-clinical reasons with less than eight days' notice, should receive their operation within 14 days, or at their earliest convenience. There is a target in place for Health Boards in Wales to reduce the number of short notice postponements by 5% year on year.

In times of pressure, it is important for Health Boards to balance the needs of emergency demand and patients, whilst maintaining a focus on normal and routine services, and they will assess patients based on clinical urgency, which is for the relevant consultant to decide. When hospitals postpone operations, it is always done as a last resort and to ensure patient safety is maintained.

Whilst the report in question concentrated on hospital postponements, every year, nearly half of all reported postponements in Wales are due to patient reasons. It is therefore important for patients to let organisations know when they are unable to attend appointments, so that those slots can be offered to other patients.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

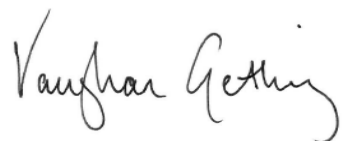
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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, reading "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services