

Vaughan Gething AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd  
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/VG/5190/14

Alun Ffred Jones AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

10 December 2014

Dear Alun,

Further to your exchange with the First Minister in Plenary on 25 November, the First Minister has asked me to write to you.

Long waits for an endoscopy, or any diagnostic test, are not acceptable. This is why an additional £4million funding has been provided to health boards to support their local plans to reduce these long waits. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has indicated that they are using their share of the additional funding (£448,000), alongside their previous plans, to provide a variety of solutions to improve performance. These include additional capacity within Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, as well as additional capacity work with alternative providers.

The Health Board has indicated these actions will support their plans to reduce waits, which do extend to 36 weeks for a colonoscopy in Ysbyty Gwynedd, back to the national standard of eight weeks. The health board has been concentrating on treating those patients referred with suspected cancer, which is why the waiting list has grown.

In addition, some of the health board plans have been delayed due to recruitment issues but improvements should be seen over the remaining months of 2014 / 2015. The delivery is being closely monitored by my officials.

Yours sincerely

**Vaughan Gething AC / AM**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd  
Deputy Minister for Health

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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