

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA - P/VG/0259/17

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay.  
CF99 1NA.

2 February 2017

Dear Lynne,

On 18 January I attended the Children, Young People and Education Committee for a general scrutiny session. During a discussion on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) you raised the issue of CAMHS waiting time data not being routinely available, or published. In response, I noted that the data is routinely available on StatsWales and undertook to provide you with the link which is at the bottom of this letter.

As you will see the data, which has been published for several years, can be interrogated by month retrospectively to April 2010, with the most recent data available being November 2016. Data is published on the second Thursday of every month. There is invariably a lag in publication as health boards collect, validate and submit their returns. Data can also be viewed on an individual health board as well as an all-Wales basis. It can also be disaggregated by individual week from zero to over 40. To make comparison easier the table also distinguishes over three and up to four weeks waiting, in line with the new 28 day target for CAMHS routine referrals.

I would like to point out that we have recently been made aware of some counting errors in the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Cwm Taf Health Boards' data. This accounts for the rise in numbers waiting during October, November and possibly earlier in the two health boards. The issue arose as these health boards counted young people accessing Local Primary Mental Health Support Services in error. I understand work is in hand to correct the data, though this may take some time to work through the system.

In relation to the 26 week neurodevelopmental (ND) target this data is not yet routinely collected nor reported, though it is our intention that it will be. We are currently in the process of taking a proposal through NHS informatics and governance procedures to ensure the data is collected accurately and consistently across Wales. I hope we will be in a position to report the first ND data later in 2017.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

As far as achievement against both the 28 day and 26 week targets is concerned, health boards should be seeking an 80% success rate in line with the requirement for Local Primary Mental Health Support Services.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Waiting-Times/Inpatient-and-Outpatient-Waiting-Times-for-Non-RTT-Specialties>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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