

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-150
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05790/11

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

Petition@wales.gsi.gov.uk

26th
July 2011

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 July on behalf of the Petitions Committee about compliance with the National Cancer Standards.

The target for achieving compliance was revised to the end of September 2010. Local Health Boards (LHBs) reported in November that levels of compliance had improved significantly and the former Minister for Health and Social Services wrote to AMs in December 2010. A copy of that letter is enclosed.

The current position is that LHBs have been asked to re-assess their levels of compliance as at the end of 2010-11 and report the outcome to their Boards. They are expected to share their reports with my Medical Director by the end of July.

We want people to survive cancer so the NHS in Wales must provide high quality and effective cancer care. We are developing a national delivery plan for cancer to set out what improvements we plan to deliver between now and 2015, how we will measure success and the key actions that will form the basis of our strategy.

Regards
Lesley

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

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

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Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

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

Our ref: MB/EH/0797/10

Your ref:

To: All Assembly Members
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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22 December 2010

Dear Assembly Members

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the revised target I set for NHS Wales, of achieving full compliance with the National Cancer Standards, by the end of September.

The table below reflects the overall position by NHS organisations and Wales as a whole, for the Standards that are generic to each set of Standards and for the cancer site specific Standards.

NHS Body	% compliance Generic standards	% compliance Cancer site specific standards
Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board	100	98.0
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board	100	97.6
Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board	93.8	96.4
Cardiff & Vale University Local Health Board	96.0	94.0
Cwm Taf Local Health Board	100	84.0

Hywel Dda Local Health Board	100	95.0
Velindre NHS Trust	100	99.1
All Wales % compliance	98.7	94.6

These results suggest that cancer services across Wales are now largely well organised with appropriate lead clinicians in place, who have a responsibility for cancer services and/or multidisciplinary cancer teams, which discuss patient cases and the findings of the annual assessment process at LHB Board level.

I have written to NHS Chairs to say that I expect these levels of compliance to be sustained and where appropriate, improved further. Paul Williams, Chief Executive of NHS Wales, is writing to NHS Chief Executives for their formal commitment on timescales for when those remaining areas of non compliance will have been addressed.

The Welsh Assembly Government's policy document *Designed to Tackle Cancer in Wales*, sets formal policy aims on achieving comparable incidence and survival rates for cancer that are among the best in Europe, by 2015. Cancer survival rates are improving in Wales and although rates for some common cancers are lower than the UK average, there are signs that the gap is closing. UK survival rates remain lower than the best in Europe. Wales has a lot to do over the coming few years.

In the future, I intend to move to a system where the NHS is more able to report on the effectiveness of its cancer services in terms of outcomes for people with cancer. To this end, the NHS Wales Medical Director will be working with the CSCG Cancer Site Advisory Groups, which collectively are in effect the National Specialist Advisory Group for cancer, to develop a core set of clinical outcome and patient focused quality measures. These will help us to track our progress towards achieving our aims for 2015.

