

Sarah Murphy MS
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

9 June 2025

Dear Sarah

Unheard: Women's journey through gynaecological cancer

As you know, the Health and Social Care Committee published its report *Unheard: Women's journey through gynaecological cancer* in December 2023. The report made 26 recommendations to the Welsh Government, 24 of which were accepted either fully or in part.

Earlier this year, the Committee received a joint letter from Tenovus Cancer Care and Claire's Campaign, urging us to undertake a short inquiry to scrutinise the implementation of the Committee's report, due to concerns that its recommendations are not being progressed. The Committee considered this request at its meeting on 5 June 2025, and agreed that I should write to you seeking an update on progress in this area.

To this end, I would be grateful if you would address the questions set out in the attached annex. If you were able to respond by **Friday 11 July 2025**, this would allow us to share your response with relevant stakeholders for comment over the summer recess.

I would also like to invite you to attend an evidence session with the Committee in the autumn term to discuss the progress in implementing our recommendations. I have asked the clerk to contact your office to arrange.

Yours sincerely



Peter Fox MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Annex

1. Why was gynaecological cancer excluded from the Women's Health Plan, despite it being recommended for inclusion? Can you clarify why the Welsh Government and NHS Wales have chosen not to prioritise it.
2. What specific actions have been taken to implement the recommendations related to gynaecological cancer since the report was published? Can you set out where measurable and identifiable progress has been made, as well as where progress has been slower than anticipated or absent.
3. How is the Welsh Government ensuring that recommendations related to gynaecological cancer are being implemented effectively and transparently? Can you provide details on how the Welsh Government is tracking its progress and where this is being made public.
4. What are the reasons for the continued poor gynaecological cancer waiting times, and what steps are being taken to address this issue? Why has the situation not improved, despite it being identified as a priority.
5. How has the Welsh Government incorporated feedback from cancer patients, healthcare professionals, and relevant community organisations into the implementation of the recommendations? Can you set out how the Welsh Government is listening to those directly affected by cancer care and involving them in the decision-making process.
6. Can you provide further detail about why Recommendation 15 (about improving emergency care for gynaecological cancers) was rejected, and what is being done to ensure the issues raised are addressed?
7. What barriers have been identified that prevent the full implementation of the report's recommendations, and how does the Welsh Government plan to overcome these obstacles?