

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/VG/2612/19

Russell George AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

11 July 2019

Dear Russell,

I am writing to you in relation to comments you made during First Minister's Questions on 9 July, in which you suggested English ambulance crews are prioritised over Welsh ambulance crews for patient handover at Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals.

Following further exploration, I can confirm that neither Welsh Government nor the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust are aware of such practice. We will continue to monitor the timeliness of ambulance patient handover for Welsh ambulance crews at English hospitals.

I note your concern about ambulance patient handover delays at Wrexham Maelor Emergency Department. I have been encouraged by improvements made at the site since the turn of the year which has enabled a step-change in ambulance patient handover performance. The site is now among the best performing in Wales, with the latest available information for May indicating only 18 people waited over an hour for handover from ambulance crews to the care of Emergency Department staff.

There is, of course, more work to be done at this and other sites to ensure Welsh patients continue to receive equitable and timely access to emergency health services irrespective of where they live. I have directed the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner to work alongside LHBs to explore opportunities to both limit ambulance conveyance volumes to hospital, and to improve ambulance patient handover.

Yours sincerely,

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.