

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at Atebion Gweinidogion Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Cyhoeddir ymatebion gan Weinidogion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfiethiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.

Ministerial responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at y Datganiad a Chyhoeddiad Busnes a gyhoeddwyd gan Edwina Hart, y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 2 Mawrth 2011

Information further to the Business Statement and Announcement issued by Edwina Hart, the Minister for Health and Social Services, on 2 March 2011

At/To Andrew RT Davies:

During Questions to the Minister for Business on 15 February you raised concerns about the screening programmes for cancer. I have also seen your press release suggesting that screening programmes for cancer would be cut and that public health would be compromised.

As I said during the Short Debate on 16 February, people in Wales will continue to be screened for cancer in accordance with expert advice from the National Screening Committee (NSC).

Improving cancer services is one of the top health priorities for the Assembly Government and survival rates for people suffering with cancer are improving across Wales. Our policy, *Designed to Tackle Cancer in Wales*, recognises the important role of screening in supporting early detection.

Public Health Wales NHS Trust manages and promotes the three population based cancer screening programmes for preventing and detecting cancer at an early stage. These three programmes, Breast Test Wales, Cervical Screening Wales and Bowel Screening Wales each work to raise public awareness and take-up, in consultation with potential user groups, healthcare professionals and the voluntary sector.

You are incorrect in stating that funding for screening is not ring-fenced. Within the 2011-12 Health Board revenue allocations that I issued recently, I have continued to protect funding for screening services, at a total of £31.7 million.

More than £10 million of capital investment is also being made in breast screening, including the introduction of a fleet of ten new mobile units for Breast Test Wales across the country to allow improved access for women in wheelchairs.

A new cytology laboratory has been built in Llantrisant and new technology is being explored for the cervical screening programme.

The bowel screening programme is extending invitations to people aged 70 and 71 and will further expand the programme so that all men and women between 50 and 74 are offered screening.

Screening plays a significant role in catching cancers earlier and thus provides better outcomes for patients. Public Health Wales is committed to developing and extending cancer screening in Wales.