

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Cyllid](#) ar [Cyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru 2024-25](#).

This response was submitted to the [Finance Committee](#) consultation on the [Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25](#).

WGDB\_24-25 02 : Ymateb gan: Cyng rhair Cancer Cymru (Saesneg yn unig) |

Response from: Wales Cancer Alliance (WCA) (English only)

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# WALES CANCER ALLIANCE CYNGHRAIR CANSER CYMRU

Eluned Morgan MS  
Minister for Health and Social Services  
5th Floor  
Senedd Cymru  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1SN

02 October 2023

Dear Minister

## **Continuation of funding for the Single Cancer Pathway Programme**

The Wales Cancer Alliance is concerned that the £3 million allocated to the NHS in Wales, via the Wales Cancer Network to allow them to implement and advance the Single Cancer Pathway (SCP) Programme concludes at the end of this financial year. We raised our concerns around the premature ending of this programme when we last met and you indicated that no decision has been made to date.

We write now to formally note our concern that NHS cancer clinicians and managers responsible for the SCP Programme are entering a period of uncertainty and avoidable disruption as we continue to struggle to recover from the Covid 19 pandemic. As of July this year only 56% of patients have started their cancer treatment within the 62-day target. This is a long way off the trajectory to achieve a target of 80% compliance by 2026.

In 2019, Welsh Government took the decision to implement this new and innovative pathway, distinguishing Wales from the other UK nations. It was the culmination of more than three years of work to change how health boards identify and report on diagnosis and treatment and to improve outcomes and experiences for people affected by cancer. Alongside the changes to how cancer waiting times are reported, the SCP Programme has helped cancer clinicians and managers identify the hidden waits across the cancer pathway, and the development of internationally recognised National Optimised Pathways (NOPs). Covid-19 was a major disruption to the SCP Programme and recovery will take time and require improvements throughout the pathway, such as ongoing improved regional working. In short, there is still much to do!

We note that the Wales Cancer Network has had to advise NHS bodies that may have otherwise been able to support the work of the SCP Programme that it cannot commit to funding proposals beyond 31st March 2024.

Ysgrifennydd / Secretary : Greg Pycroft  
g/o Tenovus Cancer Care, Llawr Cyntaf, Llys Jones, Stryd Womanby CF10 1BR  
c/o Tenovus Cancer Care, First Floor, Jones Court, Womanby Street CF10 1BR



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Whilst we recognise the challenging financial pressures within NHS Wales and the wider public sector, we believe that a premature removal of funding would hamper the ability of our NHS colleagues to realise and deliver on the targets set by Welsh Government in relation very public performance management measures outlined within the SCP Programme.

Without ongoing support, it is difficult to see how health boards will continue to mature and embed its delivery of this vital Programme. Without ongoing support, we believe that there will be disruption and a further decline in cancer waiting times and consequently an ongoing deterioration of patient outcomes in Wales.

We do hope that your Government will consider extending and fully funding the SCP Programme for a second five year period and are seeking your reassurance on this.

Please note that the Wales Cancer Alliance will be taking this opportunity to submit a copy of this correspondence to the chair of the Finance Committee which is currently conducting a call for evidence to inform the scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024/25.

Yn gywir

**Lowri Griffiths**  
**Chair, Wales Cancer Alliance**

**cc.**  
**Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Cyllid**

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