



Coleg Brenhinol
y Meddygon (Cymru)

29 April 2016

Open letter to the leaders of political parties in Wales

As frontline healthcare professionals, we remain concerned that over 430,000 people are now waiting for treatment in Wales. This is the equivalent of one in seven Welsh people. Both the 26 and 36 week waiting list targets are being missed. As always, health is a key issue for the electorate so we believe it's vital that political parties explain how they will tackle hospital waiting times ahead of May's National Assembly elections.

The Welsh health service is treating more patients than ever before, more people are living longer as a result of the care they receive, and a recently published National Survey for Wales shows people have a high level of satisfaction with the NHS – this should be celebrated. However, the issue of waiting times has not yet been solved.

The reasons for high waiting times are complex and will not be solved overnight but progress made in waiting times for heart surgery show that where priority is given, access can be improved. We're calling on the next Welsh Government to put patients at the centre of NHS reform, to invest in new models of integrated health and social care, and to focus on developing and supporting our NHS workforce.

Next week's elections offer an opportunity to build on such improvements and we urge all political parties to commit to tackling waiting lists and improving access to treatment in Wales.

Yours faithfully,

Handwritten signature of Mr Tim Havard.

Mr Tim Havard FRCS
Director of Professional
Affairs Wales, Royal College
of Surgeons

Handwritten signature of Tina Donnelly.

Tina Donnelly CBE
Director, Royal College
of Nursing Wales

Handwritten signature of Dr Alan Rees.

Dr Alan Rees BSc MD FRCP
Royal College of Physicians
Vice President for Wales

Handwritten signature of Dr Rebecca Payne.

Dr Rebecca Payne
Chair, Royal College of
GPs Wales