



**Welsh Affairs
Committee**

Wednesday, 15 July 2026

**Abigail Harris
Chief Executive
Swansea Bay University Health Board**

Dear Abigail,

Thank you for appearing before the Welsh Affairs Committee on Tuesday 23 June and giving oral evidence on our inquiry into *Cross-border healthcare arrangements between England and Wales*.

It would be helpful following the session if you could provide the following data and information;

- How many patients from Swansea Bay University Health Board were referred for cross-border treatment through the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC), through the Health Boards Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR), and through prior approval.
- Additionally, if you could provide the Committee on detail about the prior approval process including; the steps a patient must take for prior approval, why this route is used as opposed to IPFR or NWJCC routes, and what happens once prior approval is in place for a patient. If you are also able to provide any data on where these patients are referred to, that would be useful.

Additionally, due to time constraints during the session, we were not able to cover all the topics that we wanted to. I am following up in writing to ask if you could provide answers to the following questions;

- From the perspective of the Health Board how do you think cross-border specialist commissioning should be improved?
- How frequently do you share data about cross-border patients with relevant NHS England bodies?
- What support is available for patients and their families who do not qualify for Non-Emergency Patient Transport and who are receiving care in England?
- How can the UK Government improve cross-border healthcare?
 - Does the UK Government understand the challenges facing patients living on one side of the border that require healthcare on the other side?

If there is any other evidence that you think would be helpful for the Committee, please also send this to us.



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I would appreciate a response by 7 August. Thank you once again for your participation in this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Jones MP
Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee