

ABPI Cymru Wales – Headlines

- On Saturday, 16th of March, **Welsh Labour** announced their new leader, Vaughan Gething. He won the election by a small margin (51.7% / 48.3%) from his only contender, Jeremy Miles.
- On Tuesday, 19th of March, Mark Drakeford stood down from his role as **First Minister of Wales**. Following a vote in the Welsh Parliament / Senedd Cymru, Vaughan Gething will replace him. We anticipate that an updated **programme of government** will be announced in July (before the Summer Recess), but is very likely to follow some of the promises made in his [manifesto](#) from the election campaign.
- On Thursday, 21st of March, a **new cabinet** was announced. **Eluned Morgan** has remained with the health and social services remit and **Jeremy Miles** has been given economy, energy, and Welsh language.
- Of note, the Welsh Government has reverted to using "Cabinet Secretary of...", with Minister reserved for more junior (deputy) roles.
- Following an open public appointment process **Welsh Government** has announced the appointment of Neil Wooding as Chair of **Hywel Dda University Health Board** and Jan Williams as Chair of **Swansea Bay University Health Board**. These appointments are subject to pre-appointment hearings which are taking place on the 25 April 2024.
- The **Welsh Government** has announced that using powers in accordance with Section 12(3) of the National Health Services (Wales) Act 2006, **Hywel Dda University Health Board** and **Swansea Bay University Health Board** are being directed to establish a [Joint Committee](#) to ensure the appropriate arrangements are in place to plan and deliver healthcare services on a regional basis, where appropriate to do so.

- [The Welsh Government](#) has published a response to the latest health statistics published by [Stats Wales](#). For the third month, overall waiting lists in Wales have fallen, although there has been an uptick in those patients waiting over a year.
- [Advanced Therapies Wales](#) have opened registration to their Symposium 2024, to be held at the St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff on the 15th of May 2024.