Dear David

Your letter of 30th September seeks clarification of the respective responsibilities of the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Deputy Minister for Health.

The list of Ministerial responsibilities published on 12th September sets this out quite clearly. For the avoidance of doubt, the Minister is responsible for all aspects of the Health and Social Services portfolio including those areas undertaken by his Deputy. However, I can understand why members would prefer to see this articulated more specifically. I have agreed with the Minister for Health and Social Services therefore that the Deputy Minister will have responsibility for the day to day oversight of NHS delivery and performance in Wales including:

- Performance against tier one targets, which include referral to treatment times, cancer, cardiac, delayed transfers of care, accident and emergency ambulance response times, public health and mental health indicators;
- Delivery of the new outcome measures;
- Delivery plans excluding the completion of the primary care delivery plan;
- Scrutiny of NHS organisations’ performance against their three-year plans;
- Performance meetings with health board and NHS trust chairs and vice chairs;
- Regular meetings with senior officials to discuss aspects of performance, for example, meeting those responsible for delivering referral to treatment times at the health boards to discuss improvements.

I hope this provides you with the clarification you were seeking.

Yours sincerely

CARWYN JONES