

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: VG/00323/20

Mark Isherwood MS
Member of the Senedd for North Wales
Senedd Cymru

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25 September 2020

Dear Mark,

Commitments made in Business Questions on 15 September

Following Business Questions on 15 September officials have now written to Karen Robson, interim Director of Action on Hearing Loss (AOHL), to update the organisation on how specially adapted masks will be distributed across Wales.

Officials advised AOHL that the first allocation of ClearMasks is currently being distributed to all health boards in Wales. It is understood that each health board will be receiving 13 boxes of 24 masks for use within health and care settings. Each health board will be asked to provide feedback direct to the Department of Health and Social Care in England via a survey next week, so NHS Wales are pushing ahead with a quick initial trial in low risk areas.

Additionally Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board are looking at clear window face coverings for patients to wear when clinicians themselves have hearing impairment. Trial of those will also start, as soon as the first order arrives. This was covered by the BBC on 24 September: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-54270124>

It has also been proposed that Public Health Wales promote clear window face coverings as part of the "It Makes Sense" campaign this year.

Officials will continue to update AOHL on any progress and are due to meet Karen on 11 November.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
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Minister for Health and Social Services

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.