

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA - P/VG/2545/17

Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

12 July 2017

Dear Jeremy,

I am pleased that the Prime Minister has announced a public inquiry into the events that led to people being infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C through NHS-supplied blood or blood products.

You will be aware that I have written previously on 20 December 2016 to support calls for such a move, although I did not receive a reply to that letter. I am pleased that the UK Government has recognised the need to do this on a UK-wide basis given that people were infected by NHS treatment many years prior to devolution.

I welcome the UK Government commitment made in the House of Commons to working with the devolved administrations and those affected by this tragedy on the style and scope of the inquiry. I look forward to hearing more and discussing how you aim to achieve this. In addition to this, I would like an assurance about how the recommendations from any inquiry will be handled, given, as you say, that this happened before devolution. I would expect that there will be thorough engagement about how any recommendations are taken forward. Should the inquiry, for example, suggest increasing payments to those affected, an agreement is needed on meeting such an increase. It is the clear and consistent view of the Welsh Government that this should be met by the UK Government.

I look forward to working with you on the development of the inquiry but would like your commitment and assurance on the issues I have raised. Contact has been made by your colleague the Minister for Mental Health and Care and my office is looking to arrange a phonecall with her next week.

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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.

I am copying this to the Secretary of State for Wales, the Minister for Mental Health and Care in England, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport in the Scottish Government and the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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