

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: MA - P/VG/0509/16

Altaf Hussain AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

2 February 2016

Dear Altaf,

During health and social care questions on 27 January 2015 you stated that “...yet again, we have seen a rise in the number of people waiting more than eight minutes for an emergency response to a red call.” You further stated that NHS Wales is delivering “poor ambulance responses”.

I hope that you have now had a chance to reflect on what was said in the Assembly chamber and to check the facts. The recently published official statistics for red ambulance responses in Wales show that the proportion of red calls answered within eight minutes was 68.7% in October 2015, 70.8% in November 2015 and 72.4% in December 2015. Each of us is of course entitled to our opinion but I do not accept that you are entitled to your own set of facts. The statement that you made in the Assembly chamber was plainly wrong as a matter of fact.

I do not expect and do not ask for an apology to be directed at me or the Welsh Government. The staff of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust do, however deserve an apology from you for misrepresenting their achievement on behalf of the public that we serve. I ask you to take an early opportunity to correct the record and recognise the fact that our staff are delivering a sustained improvement in red ambulance response times. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
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Deputy Minister for Health