



Ein cyf/Our refs:

WQ91914  
WQ91915  
WQ91917  
WQ91918  
WQ91919

Andrew R T Davies MS  
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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26 March 2024

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to:

WQ91914 Will the First Minister confirm which special advisers and/or civil servants were members of the Drakes Spads WhatsApp group, as referred to in the evidence given by Jane Runeckles to the UK COVID Inquiry on 7 March 2024?

WQ91915 Will the First Minister outline the names and members of all WhatsApp groups, on work and personal phones, that were used to discuss any aspect of Welsh Government policy during the pandemic?

WQ91917 Will the First Minister publish the content of the Drakes Spads group chat referenced in the UK COVID inquiry?

WQ91918 Will the First Minister publish any and all WhatsApp messages between Jane Runeckles and the First Minister that discuss government business, including about team morale, from January 2020 to March 2022?

WQ91919 Will the First Minister publish all WhatsApp messages in which the First Minister discussed governmental matters with others in the Welsh Government during the pandemic?

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

Information submitted to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, and referenced in the hearings, will be made available by the Inquiry on its website, this includes exchanges by WhatsApp and text from work and personal phones.

Members of the 'DrakesSpad' WhatsApp group were as follows:

Claire Jenkins  
Jane Runeckles  
Gareth Williams  
Madeleine Brindley  
Kate Edmunds  
Andrew Johnson  
Tom Woodward  
Alex Bevan  
Dan Butler  
Ian Butler  
Sara Faye  
Paul Griffiths  
Andy Pithouse  
Mitchell Theaker

The content of the DrakesSpad group chat referenced in the UK COVID inquiry is available at [INQ000303220\\_0011 - Jane Runeckles' WhatsApp messages from DrakeSpAds, dated between 04/06/2020 to 13/08/2021. - UK Covid-19 Inquiry \(covid19.public-inquiry.uk\)](https://www.inquiry.org.uk/INQ000303220_0011_-_Jane_Runeckles'_WhatsApp_messages_from_DrakeSpAds,_dated_between_04/06/2020_to_13/08/2021._-UK_Covid-19_Inquiry_(covid19.public-inquiry.uk))

Further evidence published will be made available here <https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/hearings/core-uk-decision-making-and-political-governance-wales-module-2b-public-hearings/>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**VAUGHAN GETHING**