



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/2583/19

Mick Antoniw AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

11 July 2019

Dear Mick,

I am writing further to our discussion during health questions on 3 July about support for gambling treatment services in Wales. You asked what steps have been taken by the Welsh Government to ensure that the additional voluntary contributions, recently announced by the gambling industry, are distributed appropriately across Great Britain.

I agree this is an issue of utmost importance and I can assure you that efforts are being focused to ensure the correct allocation of any additional funding is spent in Wales to tackle gambling-related harm. The gambling operators have committed to engaging with Government, including the devolved administrations, providers and commissioners of existing services and the NHS, to determine how the additional money can best be spent. A timetable for these discussions is not yet available; however, my officials will be meeting with colleagues at DCMS and DHSC to discuss this issue in the next few weeks.

The Gambling Commission is due to publish a high-level implementation plan for Wales by the end of July. This will draw on the activities that were referenced in their new National Strategy, which was launched in Wales last month. Officials and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), along with other stakeholders, will be engaging with the Gambling Commission over the summer to review the plan and identify any gaps.

Additionally, talks between GambleAware and Public Health Directors in Cardiff and Vale and Betsi Cadwaladr Health Boards are ongoing. The purpose is to identify how GambleAware funded services could be better integrated into mental health service provision with a view to developing a Wales-wide approach.

With these forthcoming developments in mind, I have asked the CMO to provide the update I requested after summer recess. At that point we should be able to provide a more substantive response to the points you raised.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct dot over the 'i' in "Gething".

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services