



National Public Health
Service for Wales
Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cenedlaethol Cymru

Infection and Communicable Disease Service
Gwasanaeth Heintiau a Chlefydau Trosglwyddadwy

Health Protection Team (South East Wales)
Tîm Diogelwch Iechyd (De Dwyrain Cymru)

Tel: 029 20402478

Mr Mick Bates
Chair
Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

8th May 2009

Dear Mr Bates,

Re: Draft Flood and Water Management Bill

The National Public Health Service for Wales welcomes the opportunity to contribute to your short inquiry in relation to the implications of the draft Flood and Water Management Bill.

The proposals outlined in the draft Bill, particularly those relating to environmental permitting, pollution of the water environment and water shortages, have the potential to impact adversely on the public health of affected communities and population groups. To this end, the National Public Health Service for Wales is currently developing emergency preparedness and response plans that facilitate the delivery of a co-ordinated specialist response to any associated actual or potential public health impacts.

A key component of these plans is the development of effective risk communication strategies and arrangements. The National Public Health Service for Wales is therefore ensuring that, in the event of any water-related acute incident or chronic event where public health implications are likely, it is able to work with other agencies to assess risks promptly, provide timely and appropriate public health information, advice and support, and communicate public health messages effectively. In addition, the organisation can act as a link through to other NHS agencies across Wales.

I hope these comments are of use to you and will inform your inquiry.

Should you have any queries, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Huw Brunt
Consultant in Environmental Health Protection

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