

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**  
**Minister for Health and Social Services**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-932  
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/07839/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

4 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 12 October regarding Petition P-05-932 'Education on food allergies in schools & mandatory epi-pen training'.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer held an initial meeting in February this year with officials and clinicians specialising in allergies and immunology. The meeting sought to gain a greater understanding of allergy and immunology services across Wales; the issues and challenges health boards are facing; and what could be done centrally to support both allergy and anaphylaxis sufferers and services at a National level.

Unfortunately, this work has been postponed along with a number of other planned reviews to allow all available resources to be focused on supporting the Welsh Government response to Covid-19.

We remain in a worldwide pandemic and are moving into winter, a time when health services face enormous pressure generally. We need to be realistic about what can and cannot be achieved in these difficult times. The pandemic has consumed healthcare policy and as a result allergy and immunology care has been impacted along with many other aspects of central service provision.

However, please be assured that the Welsh Government remains committed to delivering the best possible care to the people of Wales suffering with allergies and anaphylaxis and will resume this work as soon as circumstances allow.

Yours sincerely,

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
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**Minister for Health and Social Services**

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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.