



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/4534/20

Elin Jones, MS  
Llywydd  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

23 December 2020

Dear Elin,

### **The Health Protection (Coronavirus, South Africa) (Wales) Regulations 2020**

I have today made the Health Protection (Coronavirus, South Africa) (Wales) Regulations 2020 under sections 45B, 45C(1) and (3)(c), 45F(2) and 45P(2) of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. These Regulations come into force at 9.00 a.m. on 24 December. I attach a copy of the statutory instrument and I intend to lay this and an accompanying Explanatory Memorandum on Tuesday 29 December.

In accordance with section 4(1) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, I am informing you that that these Regulations will come into force before they are laid before the Senedd. This is considered a necessary response to the news that a new variant of Covid-19 has been detected in South Africa. This variant is different to the UK variant reported to the WHO on 10 December (SARS-CoV-2 VUI 202012/01) but may share similar properties in terms of higher transmission, which increases the risk posed by travellers from South Africa, and also ensures that a four nations approach on international travel can be maintained.

In accordance with the emergency procedure set out in section 45R of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, this instrument must be approved by the Senedd by 7 February 2021 in order for it to remain in effect. In these circumstances I understand Standing Order 21.4A is relevant and the Business Committee may establish and publish a timetable for the responsible committee or committees to report. I intend to schedule these Regulations for debate in Plenary on 12 January 2021.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, Mick Antoniw MS as Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**

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