



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/10108/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

19 January 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 21 December regarding *Petition P-05-1070 - Advise all people who are extremely vulnerable or previously shielding in Wales to stay home, not work, during periods of high COVID 19 community infection.*

On 22 December I released a statement to members advising them of a change to the advice for this group. From this date and until at least 7 February, this group are advised not to attend work or school outside the home. I made this decision in response to the growing rates of infection in our communities and the probability that this was due to the new strain of the virus.

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-new-advice-those-who-are-clinically-extremely-vulnerable-previously-shielding>

There are already reporting mechanisms in place for those who do not believe health and safety is being appropriately considered within their workplace. These are not specific to COVID-19 response. In most cases the local authority is the most appropriate escalation point, though in some cases this may be the Health and Safety Executive.

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

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Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
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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.

In instances where people are concerned about their health and safety at work we would advise that the first conversation to be had is with their employer directly. It may be helpful to involve a trade union representative in these discussions. Individuals can get more advice on their employment rights from <https://www.acas.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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