

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/LG/0043/11

Christine Chapman AM
Committee Chair
Children and Young People Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

11th

January 2012

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2011 on behalf of the Children and Young People Committee who met on 1 December.

In your letter you referred to a petition considered by the committee from Tenovus calling on the Welsh Government to provide free sunscreen for all children under the age of 11 in Wales, and requested further details of the Welsh Government's approach to sun protection. I hope the information provided below proves helpful to inform your decision on this matter.

Between 2003 and March 2011 the Welsh Government supported the UK wide SunSmart campaign to educate people about the risk of skin cancer and enjoying the sun sensibly. Managed by Cancer Research UK (CRUK), on behalf of the four UK Health Departments, this campaign promotes a range of measures to protect children from the harmful effects of the sun. The use of at least factor 15 sunscreen on exposed skin is one of these measures; others include wearing protective clothing, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses when out in the sun, and spending time in the shade between 11am and 3pm, the hottest time of day.

My officials have also worked with CRUK to develop sun protection policy guidance for nurseries, primary and secondary schools to work towards minimising the harmful effects of exposure to the sun. This guidance reiterates the messages in the SunSmart campaign and advises schools to develop their own policy, taking account of the individual needs of the school and its pupils. Further information on this policy guidance can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/improvement/index/sunprotection/?jsessionid=gNNTMK0V89M21zGTkCsHZFFpXynv13yRRT57Gs7N47BF1tWGVZ45!-25131489?lang=en>

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Other information related to sun safety is available on the Sun Awareness area of the Welsh Government website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/improvement/cancer/skincancer/;jsessionid=5XbtPFzGpQjpD4FVJPKR3KPd6nf47Z8VKgYP1tDR7GrPsthwrfCZ!1777106760?lang=en>

This demonstrates a significant trend towards increased awareness of the importance of protecting children, checking moles and going to the doctor about moles, as well as avoiding getting sunburnt.

The evaluation and analysis undertaken by CRUK is encouraging but also highlights the proportion of people protecting themselves remains quite low, showing a need for continued activity in the area of sun safety and skin cancer awareness.

With that in mind the Welsh Government have asked Public Health Wales (PHW) to take over the skin cancer prevention programme. Through a programme level agreement, PHW will examine whether to continue with the SunSmart campaign in 2012/13, taking account of developments in the other UK countries and the outcomes of the NICE review of the provision of information for the general public on the prevention of skin cancer, or to take forward other skin cancer prevention activities.

Kind Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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