

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/VG/8085/16

Dr Dai Lloyd AM
Chair
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

19 December 2016

Dear Dai,

Thank you for your letter of 22 November about my decision to establish Health Education Wales, with the aim for it to be operational from 1 April 2018.

The committee will be aware this announcement builds upon the work previously undertaken by Mel Evans which examined the arrangements currently in place to support the investment made in health professional education in Wales.

Following an extensive engagement process, the review concluded the arrangements were fragmented, lacked real collaboration across the medical and non medical elements of the workforce and did not represent value for money.

That review recommended a new body be established for Wales which would bring together key functions aimed at supporting a sustainable NHS Wales workforce. The subsequent work undertaken by Professor Robin Williams focused on the options for a new body and was considered appropriate for implementation in Wales.

I am content that the model proposed by Professor Williams presents Wales with real opportunity to approach workforce issues on the basis of a more integrated and collaborative approach across professions. The Chair and Chief Executive will sit alongside their counterparts in NHS organisations, ensuring that the workforce aspects of developments are an integral point of discussions from an early stage. This level of access will also enable Health Education Wales to put forward and promote innovation from a perspective which is not driven by the interest of specific profession groups.

I consider this to be an opportunity to maximise the investment we make in our workforce.

A project implementation team is in the process of being appointed and will take forward the more detailed work to support the establishment and implementation of Health Education Wales. I expect this work to be taken forward during the first half of 2017 to inform the legislation required.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
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.

As I said in my statement, I intend to hold a short consultation early in 2017, which will focus on a number of areas upon which we would appreciate stakeholder's views and opinions about transition to the new organisation.

Finally, you have asked about the arrangements for working with affected organisations throughout this period of change. I can confirm that officials are already in contact with these organisations. Currently, activity is focused on identifying the most appropriate method of engagement and ensuring that it is inclusive at all levels of this work.

We are at the early stage of this programme of work and the governance arrangements are currently being finalised. I would be happy to provide the committee with updates as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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