

Y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
HSCS(5)-01-18 Papur 2 / Paper 2
Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref : MA-LVG/0867/17

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

19 December 2017

Dear Dai

Thank you for your letter of 11 December which seeks clarification regarding the planned publication date of the full report by the University of Sheffield on the impacts of minimum unit pricing in Wales.

The full report being published by the University of Sheffield will include an analysis of the modelled impacts of different minimum unit prices (ranging in 5 pence increments from 35 pence to 70 pence), as well as an analysis of the wider impacts of introducing a minimum unit price, including impacts on workplace absences and crime. It will also include a comparison of the proportional increase in alcohol duty which would be required to achieve the same reduction in alcohol consumption and alcohol-attributable deaths among hazardous and harmful drinkers, as an example MUP. The planned publication date for this report is now February 2018.

As highlighted by officials at the Technical Briefing for the Bill provided to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee (held on 25 October) and in the letter I sent to this Committee on 14 November, the original intention was to publish the full report in January 2018. However, there has been a delay in obtaining data from the Ministry of Justice (which is used to inform the modelled impacts of introducing a minimum unit price on crime). As a result, there has been a subsequent delay in the University of Sheffield being able to update this element of their modelling and analysis. At the time of the Technical Briefing, officials were expecting to receive the Ministry of Justice data that week. Unfortunately, this data was only received by Welsh Government officials during the week beginning 4 December.

You will be aware, however, that the University of Sheffield published an interim report on 29 November. This report will be particularly relevant to your scrutiny of the Bill given its focus on the estimated health impacts of an MUP. This provides an update to the 50 pence MUP example used in the 2014 report and included in the Explanatory Memorandum. The additional data that will be included in the full report, whilst clearly important, will be of particular relevance to the setting of the level of the MUP.

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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.

I appreciate your concerns about how this will fit with your reporting deadline. I will ensure my officials keep the Committees updated and share the full report from the University of Sheffield as soon as possible.

I look forward to attending the scrutiny session scheduled for 11 January.

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' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services