

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Your ref/Eich cyf P-05-831
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/02615/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

16 August 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 25 July regarding Petition P-05-831 about financial support for people in Wales infected by contaminated blood.

Each of the four UK countries has adopted different arrangements for provision of benefits and other support for their infected blood scheme beneficiaries. Regrettably, it has been difficult in consequence to establish a consistent and equitable UK approach and model for payments.

We are aware that the adoption of the Special Category Mechanism (SCM) as part of the scheme in England has generated a perception amongst some beneficiaries across the rest of the UK that the English arrangements are more flexible and favourable. This has heightened the sense of inequity and inconsistency regarding certain aspects of the schemes.

Whilst it remains an important consideration that beneficiaries in Wales are not significantly financially worse off than those elsewhere in the UK, the Welsh Infected Blood Support Scheme (WIBSS) does, however, offer a more balanced package of overall support to its beneficiaries compared to that available through some of the other UK schemes.

My officials are currently considering a number of options for overall scheme benefits for 2018-19 that are fair, transparent and offer the best overall package of support within the available resources. One of these options could be to adopt a similar approach to England in relation to Special Category Mechanism but while this work is in progress it is not yet possible to offer you a clear answer on this.

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.

I appreciate that this issue is a source of considerable concern to many of our beneficiaries and we are committed to keeping all scheme beneficiaries promptly informed of any changes to the WIBSS.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Gething".

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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