

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 - L/VG/0662/18

Lord James O'Shaughnessy
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health (Lords)
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
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23 October 2018

Dear James,

I have received the UK draft proposal for a Healthcare (International Arrangements) Bill, and note that you intend for the first reading in the House of Commons to be on Thursday, 25 October.

Provision of health services is a devolved matter, and I am therefore surprised and disappointed to only be informed this week that you are looking to introduce this Bill. There has been limited engagement on the content of any legislative fixes, and no engagement on the wording of a healthcare specific piece of legislation.

As I am sure you will be aware I will be unable to agree to any legislation which has implications for the powers devolved to the Welsh Ministers, without thorough engagement leading to legislative reassurance. The proposed legislation is therefore unacceptable in its current form.

We can discuss this issue further in our telephone conversation on Wednesday.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister of Wales, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office. I am also copying this to the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

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

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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.