

Shan Morgan
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

N Ramsay, AM
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

10 December 2019

Dear Mr Ramsay,

What the antiviral drug Relenza was purchased for in 2008/09?

Relenza is one of two antivirals in the pandemic stockpile that would be used primarily for treatment of people becoming infected with the pandemic flu virus, the other being Tamiflu. Both Relenza and Tamiflu are required because some strains of flu have been shown to be resistant to Tamiflu so whilst Relenza is very much second line it is necessary to stockpile it in the event of specific strains being prevalent in a pandemic.

The clinical assumptions are that antivirals for treatment in a pandemic would result in a 50% reduction in the probability of being hospitalised or dying and would also have moderate effect on the rate of transmission – consistent with a 60% reduction in infectiousness from the start of treatment, with treatment starting 24 hours after the onset of symptoms.

I hope this responds to your concerns.

Yours,

Shan Morgan
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol/ Permanent Secretary
Llywodraeth Cymru/ Welsh Government



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