



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/08753/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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18 December 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 02 December on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the financial support available for victims of the contaminated blood scandal.

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 as a consequence to establish a consistent and equitable UK approach and model for payments.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Julie Morgan AM, attended a meeting for the UK Health Ministers and a senior representative from Northern Ireland on 10 July to discuss the provision of support for those infected and/or affected by infected blood.

At the meeting, as an interim step in advance of any recommendations in the Infected Blood Inquiry's final report, the governments of the four nations agreed to work towards greater parity in financial and non-financial support across the UK schemes, taking account of local circumstances and beneficiaries' needs.

Discussions have been ongoing both at Ministerial and official level to seek the additional funding necessary to match the English payments announced earlier this year. Unfortunately, due to the UK election, the work on financial parity has been halted and will be picked up again once a new Government at Westminster has been formed.

Before any decision is made on the way forward in relation to any future scheme those affected will be kept informed as plans are developed.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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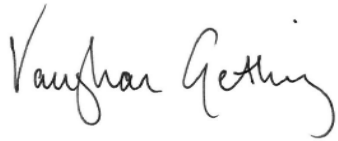
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 remain committed to working across the UK to ensure parity of the schemes and officials will continue to work with their counterparts to achieve this.

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

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services