

Vaughan Gething AM

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport

7 June 2017

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Inquiry into Winter Preparedness

Thank you for your letter of 25 January 2017, in response to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's report and recommendations on winter preparedness. In your response you agreed to provide follow-up information in relation to a number of recommendations and I am writing to request updates in these areas.

In your response to our recommendation that arrangements should be put in place to evaluate the effectiveness of all Welsh Government campaigns relating to winter health and the lessons learned published quickly (recommendation 3), you confirmed that arrangements were in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the Choose Well campaign over the last winter period. You also advised that social research would be undertaken via the Beaufort Omnibus and that this evaluation would be available in Spring 2017. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with an update on the findings of these two pieces of work and also details of how the learning from this evaluation will be taken forward and incorporated into future all-year planning, including the campaign for this winter.

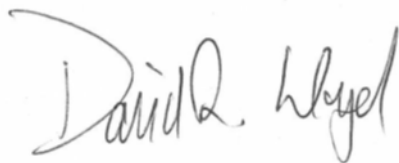
You also agreed to provide details of progress against targets for the additional £50 million investment by the Welsh Government in winter pressures.



We also draw your attention to concerns recently expressed by the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine Wales. The RCP are concerned that health boards have not learned from past experience in respect of the winter preparedness for 2016–17. The RCEM have also provided information about winter pressures in Welsh Emergency Departments. In it they say that ‘winter 2016–17 saw extreme pressures on services resulting in declining 4–hour standards, crowded departments and ‘exit block’, affecting the overall quality of care that patients received’.

It would be helpful if we were able to provide this information by 5 July. I would also welcome your assurance that planning for this winter is well underway.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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