

Vaughan Gething AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services  
Welsh Government

12 December 2017

Dear Vaughan,

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MINIMUM PRICE FOR ALCOHOL) (WALES) BILL**

Thank you for your attendance at the Committee's meeting last week to discuss the financial implications of this Bill. During the evidence session, you told the Committee that the updated analysis by Sheffield University of the modelled impacts of MUP in Wales would be available in February 2018, however I note from your letter of 14 November to the Health Social Care and Sport Committee that you state this update would be available in January. I would therefore be grateful if you could confirm whether this information will be available in time to be considered and reflected upon by both committees in our reports ahead of the reporting deadline of 16 February.

Further to the responses you provided during the session, you will recall that you agreed to provide the following additional information:

- Details of the peer review conducted on the data sources used in the Sheffield University modelling;
- more information on the funding allocated to raise awareness of the minimum unit price;
- report back to the Committee following the meeting between Welsh Government and Home Office officials, particularly in relation to any impact on the fiscal framework; and
- report back to the Committee on discussions with the Welsh Retail Consortium regarding a possible voluntary levy.

Additionally, the Committee would like further information on the costs on enforcing the provisions in the Bill. I note that the Welsh Government has estimated that it will need to allocate £150,000 in the first year after the Bill comes into force to fund additional inspection activity by local authorities to enforce the MUP and that funding of £100,000 in year two and £50,000 in year 3 will be provided for this purpose. However, I'm aware that the Chair of Wales Heads of Trading Standards told the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee that to maximise compliance it is particularly important that there is sufficient funding



in the first year after the Bill comes into force to enforce and raise awareness of the minimum unit price, suggesting a figure of £200,000. Please could you confirm whether you plan to bring forward more of the funding allocated, or to provide funding above that identified in the RIA for the first year.

The Committee would be grateful for a response as soon as possible, particularly in relation to confirming when the updated analysis will be available, in order to consider the information in a timely manner ahead of agreeing its report on the Bill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Simon Thomas  
**Chair**

