



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-866  
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05340/19

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales)

15 February 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 28 January regarding Petition P-05-866 Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign – Wales.

Wales is seen as leading the way in the UK in making sepsis recognition and treatment a top priority within the NHS. A huge amount of work has been done since 2012 when Wales was the first country in the world to implement the National Early Warning Score system - known as NEWS – to ensure early escalation of deteriorating patients. This means we are using a common language throughout NHS Wales to communicate about deterioration and sepsis. In May 2016, NHS Wales gained recognition for its contribution to sepsis awareness by winning the Global Sepsis Award in the “Governments and Healthcare Authorities” category.

We have supported World Sepsis Day since its inauguration in 2013 and in 2017 I attended the all-Wales event being sponsored by the 1000 Lives Improvement team, where work on sepsis was discussed. We also have a positive relationship with the UK Sepsis Trust (UKST), which is delivering the Just Ask: Could it be sepsis? campaign with Public Health England.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

National awareness campaigns are complex and evidence of effectiveness is difficult to demonstrate. I recognise the importance of raising public awareness of the dangers of sepsis but it is also important to strike the right balance with messages about the appropriate use of antibiotics and the risk of creating public anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "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