



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ81478

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of the Senedd
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

29 December 2020

Dear Janet,

I am writing in response to your Written Assembly question WQ81478 tabled on 5 November 2020 enquiring about what steps the Minister is taking to support the resumption of in-person face-to-face courses and assessment sessions, on topics like health and safety, by private practitioners across the social care industry in Wales.

The social care workforce regulator in Wales, Social Care Wales (SCW), is developing two pieces of separate guidance on the issue of training, with advice from Public Health Wales. This will be published in March 2021.

One will focus on the delivery of local authority led face-to-face training through the Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme (SCWWDP) and the other will focus on other training providers. The guidance will also provide guiding principles for the delivery of digital learning.

In the meantime, the use of digital solutions to deliver and access training, is being encouraged as far as is practicable. In terms of face to face training delivered on the premises, care home providers are responsible for the safety of their services, and the well-being of people living in their homes and we would expect any decision on allowing access from training staff would need to be risk assessed against the risk to those living in their homes.

In addition to this, [Further Education \(FE\) sector guidance](#), developed with advice from Public Health Wales (PHW), requires occupational standards to be applied where necessary. This guidance reflects the need for consideration of the Welsh Government's "[Staying safe at work](#)" advice, which includes a link to the Covid-19 workforce risk assessment tool.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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

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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.