

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ81351

Neil McEvoy MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

25 February 2021

Dear Neil,

I write in response to WQ81351: What risk assessments were carried out in relation to the effects of lockdowns in Wales on debt, non-COVID-19 deaths, mental health, level of suicides, suspected suicides and attempted suicides, and when and how will the Minister publish them?

The lockdown response imposed in March, in October and currently is an emergency response, imposed to prevent our NHS from being overwhelmed and to prevent thousands more people from dying from the virus. We are aware that each period of lockdown causes harms in terms of people missing out on health services, damage to the economy and social isolation. The alternative of letting the virus and new or emerging variants, spread in an unmitigated way would also have also significant public health harms. A summary integrated assessment of the restrictions for the firebreak can be found [here](#).

We have estimated the number of coronavirus deaths that are delayed by lockdown measures, as well as some of the potential impacts on GVA. We are continuing to monitor non-Covid deaths, including suicides from the Office of National Statistics. We are also monitoring levels of financial risk for households. We are also closely monitoring the impact of the pandemic on people's health and wellbeing through monitoring the requests to Citizens Advice and call volumes to the Live Fear Free helpline as well as tracking attitudes and behaviours. We are working with partners to respond to people's changing mental health needs and have invested an additional £8.5m in mental health support this year.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
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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.