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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Assembly Members  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

13 June 2017

Dear colleague,

On Tuesday 16 May in response to my Oral Statement on the End of Life Care, I agreed to write to you about the Serious Illness Conversation programme and how many individuals have received this training.

The programme objective is to provide basic communication skills to health care staff that confront all aspects of serious illness and care for dying patients as part of their day to day work but who are not trained or working in specialist palliative care.

The first phase of the training concentrated on Wales Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) professionals and Organ Donation Specialist Nurses. The second phase extended the training to Emergency Care and Intensive Care teams. More recently prison officers have also been trained.

To date 193 individuals have received the training and the feedback has been positive with many individuals advising they feel more confident and better equipped in talking to patients and relatives around breaking bad news. A breakdown by area and profession is provided at Annex A.

An additional £1 million has been allocated to the End of Life Care Implementation Board in 2017-18 to further enhance end of life care provision. Part of this funding will be used to continue the roll out of the Serious Illness Conversations programme across Wales, enabling a further 400 individuals to be trained.

Yours sincerely

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**  
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Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport

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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.

Stats for Serious Illness ConversationsTeaching delivered by Health Board/ Location

<b>Health Board /location</b>	<b>Number taught</b>
Betsi Cadwaladar UHB	33
Hywel Dda HB	37
ABMUH	24
Cardiff & Vale UHB	33
Cwm Taff HB	7
Aneurin Bevan UHB	22
Powys	2
Identified themselves as an 'All Wales'	31
Hereford	2
Outside Wales	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>

Teaching by role

<b>Role</b>	<b>Number Taught</b>
Paramedic / Emergency medical Technician/ Non emergency patient transport (NEPTS)	117
Specialist nurse in organ donation / Clinical lead OD/ ITU/ ED Drs/ Transplant teams	57
Prison staff	15
Others	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>