



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ81044

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

9 January 2021

Dear Rhun,

I am writing in response to coronavirus-related Written Questions, which you submitted and have not yet received an answer. Please accept my apologies for the time it has taken to respond to this question.

WQ81044: Will the Government provide an update on the development of COVID-19 'Antigen LAMP' testing systems, and the possibility of utilising them in Wales to ensure far quicker results in order to start tracing contacts earlier, including in care homes? I apologise for the delay in replying, this is due to the volume of questions I have received about the global pandemic.

We have been involved in a number of trials and device validations for COVID-19 diagnostics testing using new technology under the UK Testing Programme. This includes various technology such as lateral flow, point of care and devices using loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP). Officials have also been engaged with the University of South Wales on its development of a LAMP device.

Every diagnostic machine must undergo rigorous clinical trials and validation processes to assess its performance including the sensitivity and specificity of the test in diagnosing pre-infectious and infectious individuals. When these processes are completed both technically and in the field we then consider the most appropriate use case i.e. the population and sample type the test is used for, where it can be used, when it should be used and what the results mean.

Officials are currently reviewing the validations that have been completed on the LAMP devices available to us under the UK Testing Programme and preparing advice on the potential for the technology to enhance and support delivery of our testing strategy for Wales.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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