Ken Skates AS/MS Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales

Ein cyf / Our ref: KS/526/21

Helen Mary Jones MS Mid and West Wales

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Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

24 March 2021

Dear Helen,

I refer to your question to the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd during Business Questions on 9 March, regarding working conditions at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) office in Swansea.

We have repeatedly pressed for assurances that the DVLA is operating safely and in compliance with the Coronavirus Regulations and Guidance in Wales and we have raised these issues with UK Government Ministers at the Department for Transport who have oversight of the DVLA.

In addition, over the past few months, a team including Public Health Wales, Swansea Council, the Health and Safety Executive and the local NHS Board, has been mobilised to assist the DVLA with managing the impact of Covid-19 in the workplace.

We also remain in close contact with the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) who represent many of the workers at the DVLA and we are aware of their ongoing concerns, the outcome of the ballot on industrial action and that they have served notice for 4 days of industrial action from 6-9 April. We understand the PCS are this week engaged in further talks with the DVLA.

I am attaching for information, two letters that the First Minister sent to Baroness Vere of Norbiton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Transport.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Skates AS/MS Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales

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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.