



Ein cyf/Our ref VG-0342-20

Andrew RT Davies MS
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

19 October 2020

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your request to the Minister for Business and Trefnydd on 6 October for a statement regarding the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre.

I am grateful for your acknowledgement that I cannot at this time comment on the clinical model for the proposed cancer centre, or on the concerns recently raised regarding it, without prejudicing the decision ministers will have to make on the final business case in the coming months.

I understand the nature of the concerns that have been raised and I have committed to giving this consideration, once officials have completed the scrutiny process for the cancer centre business case. This process of scrutiny is independent of Velindre and the commissioning health boards and will consider all aspects of the business case, including the clinical model and the independent advice from the Nuffield Trust. There is no need to commission a parallel review process because all of these issues will be considered in the round as part of the final scrutiny process.

If we were to have commissioned an independent review, as some are suggesting, and should such a review propose something different to the expert providers of cancer care in south east Wales, then the government would be in the inappropriate position of deciding what the best model is to treat cancer. This is clearly not a role for government. It is for the NHS in Wales to decide how best to treat people with cancer and how to arrange services to do so effectively. Their proposals are then subject to detailed scrutiny by Welsh Government officials and ultimately decisions by ministers. That is why the Chief Medical Officer has recommended to Velindre NHS Trust that it seeks independent advice on its clinical model, so that any risks and mitigations can form part of the final business case that is put before the government for review and a decision.

I am well aware that this is an enormously complex programme and involves significant investment. The new cancer centre proposal must be safe, provide value and be deliverable. These factors are inter-related and therefore I must consider the business case in its entirety and not from only one, albeit an important, perspective.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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.

It is regrettable that these concerns have been raised so late in the process but I hope this information provides you with assurance that these important matters will receive the required attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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