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

Llywodraeth Cymru

Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/VG/0538/21

Elin Jones, MS Llywydd Senedd Cymru Cardiff Bay CF99 1SN

13 February 2021

Dear Elin,

## The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2021

In accordance with sections 4(1) and 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 I am notifying you that this Statutory Instrument has not adhered to the 21 day convention and will come into force before it can be laid. I attach a copy of the statutory instrument and I intend to lay this and an accompanying Explanatory Memorandum on Monday 15 February.

This statutory instrument introduces enhanced measures into the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (Wales) Regulations 2020 to address the public health risk posed by the incidence and spread of variant strains of coronavirus.

These enhanced measures include a new testing system is in place for persons aged 5 years or over arriving into Wales (subject to a limited number of exemptions), requiring them to book and undertake testing on day 2 and 8 of their isolation period. Failure to do so will be a criminal offence, liable to a fine. Failure to undertake both tests will also mean that the isolation period is extended to 14 days.

Moreover, further measures are being taken in relation to countries that have already been identified as an enhanced risk due to links with variant strains of coronavirus ("red list countries") in order to further protect against the risk of community transmission of variant stains. This includes prohibiting a person who has been in a red list country in the last 10 days from entering Wales from 4am on 15 February and failure to comply with this restriction will be a criminal offence, liable to a fine. Should such travellers arrive at a designated port in England or Scotland, they will be required to enter into a managed quarantine period in accordance with the regulations in force there which come into force on Monday 15 February 2021.

Not adhering to the 21 day convention, and bringing them into force before they are laid, allows these Regulations to come into force at the earliest opportunity and continue the four nation approach to international travel; in view of the changing evidence on risk in relation to

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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.

this disease this is considered necessary and justifiable in this case.

Due to the immediacy of the Regulations they have not been subject to consultation.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, Mick Antoniw MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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