

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Gweinidog Iechyd
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/VG/05469/14

Kirsty Williams AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

27th February 2015

Dear Kirsty,

Following my statement on "Progress on Immunisation and Vaccination" at the plenary session on 25 November, I undertook to respond to two questions you raised at the time.

Uptake of MMR in the black and ethnic minority community

Although data on ethnicity for national childhood vaccination programmes is collected through the Child Health System, the data quality has always been reported as being highly variable. Considerable quality assurance would need to be carried out before figures could be confidently published. Public Health Wales is responsible for collating data on vaccination uptake and has plans to undertake the necessary work as part of future improvements to its data collection and reporting systems.

Private companies offering the single measles vaccine in Wales

Preventing private companies from providing such services outside the regulatory framework would require additional legislation as the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Independent Health Care (Wales) Regulations 2011 do not make specific provision for such services. We have given some consideration to using existing powers under the Care Standards Act to regulate individual medical practitioners providing non-NHS services in Wales (other than those that are registered with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales). The impact of such an amendment is likely to be wider than just clinics offering single measles vaccines and the legal implications of this option would require careful research and analysis before progressing.

However, we may look to address this type of issue in another way. Following the review of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales by Ruth Marks, we are considering the implications for the entire legislative basis of the inspectorates in Wales and this will be addressed in a forthcoming Green Paper. This may provide us with the opportunity to address situations like this where there appear to be undesirable gaps in the framework.

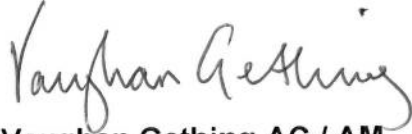
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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In the meantime, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) retains responsibility for taking decisions on whether a service provided by a private company in Wales requires registration on a case by case basis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Vaughan Gething'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the 'i' in 'Gething'.

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