



**Vaughan Gething AM**  
**Deputy Minister for Health**

17 June 2015

Dear Vaughan,

**Inquiry into alcohol and substance misuse**

Thank you for giving evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee as part of our inquiry into alcohol and substance misuse on Thursday 11 June 2015.

During that session you agreed to provide the Committee with:

- a note detailing the specific outputs and outcomes that will be used by the Welsh Government to measure the effectiveness (particularly in relation to service delivery, and changing people's behaviour) of the £50 million funding announced to tackle alcohol and substance misuse over the next year; and a copy of the research undertaken by the University of Sheffield into the impact of minimum unit pricing in Wales.

On the specific themes below, Members would also welcome:

*The Peer Mentoring Scheme*

- a progress update on the plans for a successor scheme to the Peer Mentoring Scheme;

Bae Caerdydd  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Ffôn / Tel: 0300 200 6354

E-bost / Email: [Seneddlechyd@Cynulliad.Cymru](mailto:Seneddlechyd@Cynulliad.Cymru) /  
[SeneddHealth@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddHealth@Assembly.Wales)

Trydar / Twitter: [@seneddiechyd](https://twitter.com/seneddiechyd) / [@seneddhealth](https://twitter.com/seneddhealth)

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

- an outline of the arrangements that are in place to cover the interim period (between the end of the Peer Mentoring Scheme, and the beginning of the successor Out-of-Work Peer Mentoring Service); and
- an indication of when you expect the new Out-of-Work Peer Mentoring Service to be in place.

#### *Prescription drugs and medicines*

- your views on the extent of the problem of over-prescription of drugs and medicines, and the costs associated with over-prescription to the public purse;
- how the problem of over-prescription relates to Minister for Health and Social Services' aims in relation to prudential healthcare;
- an outline of the strategies and guidelines in place to monitor patients prescribed with a course of medication including the exit strategies in place at the end of a course of treatment.

#### *Steroids and Image Enhancing Drugs (SIEDs)*

- your views on the extent of the problem of SIEDs abuse (including the use of Melanotan) in Wales; and
- your views on whether the Welsh Government's current strategy takes sufficient account of SIEDs.

#### *Education and schools*

- more detail from you on the content of the courses delivered as part of the All-Wales Schools Liaison Core Programme; and
- an outline of how the Welsh Government ensures consistency across schools in terms of public health messaging delivered as part of the programme.

#### *Alcohol-related brain damage*

- more detail on the guidelines available to clinicians when dealing with alcohol-related brain damage;
- data on the extent of alcohol-related brain damage in Wales; and
- more information on how the services available to those suffering alcohol-related brain damage on referral are planned and delivered.

### *Provision of residential detoxification centres*

- a breakdown of the location and capacity of residential detoxification centres in Wales;
- information about how provision is planned and whether there are any gaps currently; and
- an outline of whether there are any residential detoxification centres in Wales specifically for women.

### *GPs*

- more detail on the changes that you referred to that have been made to GP training;
- how the outcome of these changes to GP training are being measured and monitored;
- evidence of the improvements that have been made; and
- your views on the effect of the use of locums on the care that patients receive.

### *Mental health*

- your views on the extent to which mental health and ASM services should be integrated, and the extent to which they are.

### *Alcohol labelling*

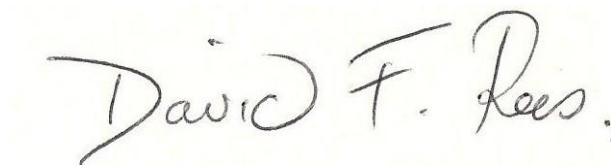
- your views on the effectiveness of the term ‘alcohol unit’ as an aid to helping people understand the amount of alcohol they consume, and whether you are considering alternative options.
- your views on the recent European Parliament cross-party resolution on alcohol labelling including whether or not the Welsh Government agrees with this position; and
- whether the Welsh Government has any discussions with the UK Government on this issue.

*Alcohol brief interventions*

- your views on whether enough is being done to monitor the effectiveness of the alcohol brief interventions approach; and
- whether alcohol brief interventions require a more strategic approach.

It would be helpful to receive this information by Wednesday 1 July, so that your views may inform the Committee's report and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "David F. Rees." in a cursive, slightly slanted script. The first name "David" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, followed by "F." and "Rees.".

**David Rees AM**

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee