



Russell George MS
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

11 July 2022

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your letter of 14 June in relation to the provisional common frameworks for Public Health Protection and Health Security; Blood Safety and Quality; and Organs, Tissues and Cells (apart from embryos and gametes).

I note the Committee's request that further consideration is given to providing a substantive response in relation to a number of recommendations which relate to Wales, and which are not the subject of ongoing intergovernmental negotiations or scrutiny by other legislatures. I am grateful to the Committee for the work that has evidently been done to separate out these issues.

Nevertheless, whilst I appreciate the Committee's rationale for requesting responses to some recommendations at this stage, I am afraid that because these issues have arisen as part of the common framework scrutiny process, I am unable to respond formally to any recommendations made **as part of this process** until all legislatures in the UK have had the opportunity to complete scrutiny.

As you will be aware, the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly are also undertaking scrutiny of the frameworks, and we will need to wait for their committees to complete scrutiny before we can provide a response to your recommendations. This approach to responding to committee recommendations has been agreed on a four-nation basis and is in line with the spirit of four-nation working and consensus that embodies the Common Framework programme. The only exception to this is where a recommendation relates to a factual error which poses a reputational risk to one or more of the Governments.

I will therefore write to you again once the recommendations have been received from all UK legislatures and the four governments have reached agreement on the changes to be made to the frameworks in response to these.

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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.

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.

I commit to providing a full response as soon as practicable, but please accept this letter in the interim.

In the meantime, if there are pressing matters related to policy about which you would like information or clarification, please write to me and I will be happy to address these outside of the frameworks scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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