

Vaughan Gething AM
Minister for Health and Social Services

23 April 2019

Dear Vaughan

I am writing further to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's inquiry into suicide prevention in Wales and the subsequent debate in Plenary on 20 February 2019.

As discussed during that debate, the Committee very much welcomed the additional £500,000 a year announced earlier this year towards the delivery of suicide prevention in Wales. You stated that the additional money will be used to support the national and regional approaches to help prevent suicide and self-harm.

You will be aware that in its report the Committee called for specific funding to be made available for suicide prevention, and that the Committee would wish to see some protected resource for this given the economic cost of suicide, as was clearly highlighted in the evidence we received during the inquiry.

I would therefore be grateful if you were able to provide the Committee with further details of how this additional funding will be spent.

There are certain factors which create risk and stress to people living in rural areas over and above the suicide risk factors affecting the general population. The Committee would welcome details of how this additional funding will be used to support at risk groups across Wales, including specific reference to the farming community which has been identified as a particular and urgent concern. This is especially the case given the uncertain impacts of the UK's imminent withdrawal from the EU on this high-risk group.



As you will be aware the Committee has made a commitment to revisit the important issue of suicide prevention in the next few months, and we look forward to discussing this further with you in due course.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dr Dai Lloyd AM
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

