

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith /  
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee  
Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd / Priorities for the Sixth Senedd

PR41

Ymateb gan Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan / Evidence from Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

Please find below the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board response to the above  
consultation. The response was co-ordinated by the Health Board Director of Public  
Health, Dr Sarah Aitken

The response relates to the **Circular Economy** section of the Ministers priorities:

'With respect to the *Circular Economy*, the NHS procures vast quantities of single use  
materials and generates large volumes of plastic waste. There is scope for the NHS to  
use more reusable products and to improve the recycling of products where single  
use is the only acceptable choice e.g. for infection control. PPE is particularly topical  
now and single use face masks more specifically.

Most NHS procurement is conducted at the national level as is most infection control  
policy. That means there would need to be a national approach to setting an  
expectation that the NHS uses reusable products where appropriate. There are now  
reusable medical grade masks but national policies lead to the use of disposable  
masks when a reusable mask could be a safe option.

Where single use is the only acceptable choice for reasons such as infection control,  
there is scope for more attention to be given at the procurement stage to ensuring  
products are made of recyclable materials plus improved processes for the safe  
recycling of single use, clinical products.'