

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/MD/1877/13

Vaughan Gething AM
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee

23 May 2013

Deu Vaughan

Thank you for your letter dated 14 May advising that the Committee is considering conducting a short inquiry into the current measles outbreak and for providing me with a copy of the letter you have sent to Public Health Wales.

I would welcome the opportunity to review the issues you have outlined in your letter into the causes of the current outbreak and the response as this will help to inform future actions to prevent or mitigate a re-occurrence.

Whilst there are early indications that the numbers of notifications from the Swansea area are slowing down, it would be premature to say the outbreak is over as there remain significant proportions of susceptible people in all areas of Wales, particularly in the hardest hit age group, 10 – 18 years. As you have mentioned, there is particular concern for the Gwent area, where there have been over 100 reported cases since November and Public Health Wales has estimated around 8,000 young people in this age group remain susceptible at 16 May.

Considerable numbers of children have received the MMR vaccine in Wales since March, over 52,000 doses of MMR given to people of all ages in Wales (16 May). The efforts of Health Boards and Public Health Wales are continuing to focus on encouraging young people who have missed out for whatever reason to take up the opportunities being offered to have the vaccine and so to provide maximum protection to the community as a whole.

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

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I look forward to hearing from you with confirmation of the Committee's plans for the inquiry in due course.

Best wishes

Mark.

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