

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref VG/00375/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
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21 February 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your further letter of 31 January regarding Petition P-05-797 about access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi® (lumacaftor/ivacaftor).

As I noted in my earlier letter, the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) has repeatedly contacted the pharmaceutical company, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and has strongly encouraged them to make a submission to the AWMSG for appraisal. Whilst Vertex has agreed in principle to submit clinical data for appraisal by AWMSG, they have not committed to any firm date for doing so. If the manufacturer refuses to provide evidence about how well their medicine works, AWMSG cannot appraise it and cannot therefore issue a recommendation to make the medicine routinely available or not.

My officials have informed AWMSG that additional longer term clinical data appears to be available and AWMSG will contact Vertex again, as a matter of urgency, and ask them once again to submit their evidence.

Yours sincerely,

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**  
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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

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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.