

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS

First Minister of Wales
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

15 December 2020

Dear Mark

UK Government COVID-19 support

Like you, we are concerned by the rising rates in Wales and many other parts of our United Kingdom. We are writing to you to offer our support, so we can get on top of this disease together.

We have seen that COVID-19 does not respect political or administrative boundaries. Instead it follows the human geographies that people follow, which we know is especially important for much of the Wales – England border. This underlines the importance of our UK-wide approach and the need to work collaboratively together.

Therefore, we write to you to reaffirm the UK Government's commitment to continue supporting health boards in Wales over the coming weeks and months.

We are aware that health boards across Wales are considering postponing non-COVID-19 treatments and appointments (including those classed as urgent) to deal with the immediate threat of the pandemic. We stand ready to support Welsh hospitals through mutual aid of patients across the border where this is needed due to undue strain on healthcare provision.

We would also like to re-extend the offer to make further use of the UK Government's mass testing programme, in addition to the current schemes in the Merthyr Tydfil Council area and the Lower Cynon Valley area. Having spoken with the Secretary of State for Defence, the military stand ready to assist with the Welsh Government with further logistical and other support where needed too.



UK Government
Llywodraeth y DU



Department
of Health &
Social Care

As one United Kingdom, it is only right that we share the burden of this fight when the struggle falls more heavily on one area of the UK.

Rt Hon Simon Hart MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care