

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 May 2020

Dear Stephen,

Wales and COVID-19 Response

Thank you for inviting Minister Davies and me to appear before your Committee on 28 April. The session broke new ground in enabling scrutiny remotely and I hope you found the session as interesting and valuable as we did.

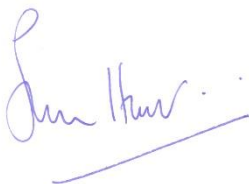
During the session, I said that I would provide a schedule of Ministerial contacts between the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales and the Welsh Government since the start of the crisis. The schedule (at Annex A) also includes COBR and Ministerial Implementation Group meetings attended by Welsh Ministers.

Following the session, the Committee asked further questions on the availability of data. Data are not currently available on the numbers of businesses in Wales supported by UK government C-19 business support schemes or how many people are furloughed in Wales. Data are also unavailable by UK nation and region on the number of Universal Credit applications.

I know we agree on the usefulness of data broken down to a more granular level. I will continue to press HM Treasury and DWP to provide a breakdown of data by UK nation and region.

I look forward to appearing before the Committee again later this month.

Best wishes,



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

Annex A: Schedule of contact with Welsh Government Ministers to 1st May

MIG: Ministerial Implementation Group meetings. These were attended by both OSSW and Welsh Government Ministers unless otherwise stated.

MACA: Military Assistance to Civil Authorities. These are requests for military assistance from the Welsh Government which were approved by the Secretary of State for Wales on the day of receipt (some were sent for information only when approval was not required)..

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Contact</u>	<u>Summary</u>
23 rd March	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
23 rd March	Video Conference	COBR M
24 th March	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
24 th March	MACA request	5 military planners to support the Welsh Government with logistics and planning.
25 th March	Letter	SOS Wales to FM Wales: Asking WG to align with UK COVID volunteer strategy
25 th March	Phone Call	CBI: OSSW Minister, Welsh Minister (Economy and Transport)
25 th March	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
26 th March	Letter	SOS Wales to Welsh Minister (Health): Why is there a hotspot in Gwent? What is WG plan for PPE distribution?
26 th March	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
26 th March	Phone Call	SOS Wales and Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
27 th March	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
27 th March	Letter	SOS Wales to FM Wales: Expressing concern that business rates relief was restricted below £500,000 rateable value
27 th March	Phone Call	SOS Wales and Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
30 th March	Letter	FM Wales to SOS Wales: Responding to letter from 25 th and 27 th March
30 th March	Phone Call	SOS Wales and Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
30 th March	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG

31 st March	Letter	Welsh Minister (Health) to SOS Wales: responding to letter 26 th March
31 st March	Letter	SOS Wales to FM Wales: Seeking reassurance on WG plans to make available more hospital beds across Wales.
31 st March	Video Conference	Economic and Business Response MIG
31 st March	Phone Call	FCO Call with DA Ministers: Attended by OSSW Ministers and Welsh Ministers
31 st March	Phone Call	SOS Wales and Welsh Minister (Economy and Transport)
31 st March	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
1 st April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
1 st April	Phone Call	CBI: SOS Wales, Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
2 nd April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
2 nd April	Phone Call	SOS Wales and Welsh Minister (Health)
2 nd April	Video Conference	Healthcare MIG
3 rd April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
6 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
6 th April	Phone Call	SOS Wales and Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
7 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
7 th April	Video Conference	Healthcare MIG
7 th April	Video Conference	Economic and Business Response MIG
8 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
8 th April	Phone Call	CDL: SOS Wales and FM Wales
8 th April	Phone Call	CBI: OSSW Minister, and Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
8 th April	MACA request	60 personnel to act as drivers for the ambulance service.
8 th April	MACA request	60 personnel for decontamination of ambulances.
9 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
9 th April	Video Conference	COBR M
9 th April	Video Conference	Healthcare MIG
10 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG

13 th April	Phone Call	SOS Wales and Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
13 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
14 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
14 th April	Letter	SOS Wales to FM Wales: UKG ready to assist WG with PPE distribution
15 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
15 th April	Phone Call	CDL, SOS Wales and FM Wales
15 th April	Letter	Counsel General to SOS Wales: post Brexit Arrangements
16 th April	Letter	Counsel General to SOS Wales: Urging representations to FCO
16 th April	Video Conference	COBR M: Attended by OSSW Ministers and Welsh First Minister
16 th April	Video Conference	Economic and Business Implementation MIG Group:
16 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
16 th April	Phone Call	FCO DA Call: Attended by OSSW Ministers and Welsh Ministers
16 th April	MACA request	20 logistical supply specialists and assistants to ensure the supply and distribution of PPE is sufficient and systems in place to manage supply and demand.
17 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
18 th April	MACA request	Military assistance team to assess vacuum insulated evaporator systems across NHS Wales to ensure oxygen supplies are where they are needed.
20 th April	Phone Call	SOS Wales, OSSW Minister, Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
20 th April	Letter	FM Wales to SOS Wales: Welcome UK wide PPE approach
20 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
21 st April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
22 nd April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG

22 nd April	Phone Call	DIT Ministerial Forum for Trade: Attended by OSSW Ministers and Welsh Ministers
22 nd April	Phone Call	CBI: OSSW Minister, Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
23 rd April	Phone Call	FCO DA Call: Attended by OSSW Ministers and Welsh Ministers
23 rd April	Video Conference	Economic and Business Implementation MIG
24 th April	Letter	SOS Wales to FM Wales: WG restart / recovery plan
24 th April	MACA request	Military assistance team to establish and run a mass testing site in Llandudno.
26 th April	MACA (sent for information only)	30 military personnel to unload two aircrafts full of PPE equipment
27 th April	Letter	SOS to Counsel General: Responding to letter from 16 th April
27 th April	Phone Call	SOS Wales to Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
27 th April	Phone Call	EFRA Ministers meeting: Attended by OSSW Ministers and Welsh Ministers
28 th April	MACA request	Military Planner to assist in the establishment and running of a Coordination Cell in Swansea Bay Health Board
28 th April	Letter	SOS Wales to Welsh Minister (Local Government: Expressing concern over Exclusion of holiday let owners from WG support schemes
29 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
29 th April	Phone Call	CBI: OSSW Minister, Welsh Minister (Economy & Transport)
30 th April	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG
30 th April	Video Conference	Economic and Business Implementation MIG:

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30 th April	MACA (sent for information only)	Extension of military assistance to provide a Subject Matter Expert (SME) training to assist 16 front-line hospitals to rapidly improve PPE stock supply and control systems.
1 st May	Phone Call	SOS Wales, FM Wales
1 st May	MACA request	5 MOD operations staff for an initial 2 week period to establish a Wales testing programme.
1 st May	Video Conference	General Public Sector MIG:
1 st May	Video Conference	Healthcare MIG:
1 st May	MACA (sent for information only)	8 military personnel to support and operationalise the development of a CTU testing site in Abercynon.