



Ein cyf/Our ref EM/00374/20

Joanna Welham

welhamjl@parliament.uk

16 July 2020

Dear Joanna,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the House of Commons International Trade Committee's inquiry into COVID-19 and international trade.

PPE procurement for the health and social care sectors in Wales is being undertaken by the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP). We have been advised by NWSSP that they have not sought Department for International Trade support for any internationally sourced orders of PPE. Therefore, they have not experienced any issues in relation to requests for support on PPE procurement activities.

In Wales, we have stabilised our supply of PPE largely through our own sourcing efforts, from both international suppliers and domestic manufacturing. Our Welsh Government overseas office network has provided support in identifying potential new PPE suppliers. Since 9 March, NWSSP have issued over 215 million items to health and social care settings. Fewer than 4 million of those items have been supplied to NHS Wales through UK Government procurement.

A proposal was put forward by the Department for Health and Social Care in early April for a centralised UK-wide approach to PPE procurement, which the Devolved Administrations were concerned could risk disrupting existing supply chains. My colleague, the Minister for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething, emphasised that any joint procurement approach would need to ensure equity of re-supply and that normal supply chains must not be circumvented.

While a centralised PPE procurement process was not a feasible position, we have continued to collaborate on a revised UK-wide approach to PPE procurement which is in the final stages

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

of development. We remain committed to a four nations approach to PPE and have offered support to other parts of the UK through mutual aid over the past three months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol
Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language