



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/08679/19

Professor David Healy MD FRCPsych

[David.Healy@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:David.Healy@wales.nhs.uk)

10 December 2019

Dear Professor Healy,

Thank you for your e-mail of 26 November regarding the inquest into Stephen O'Neill's death following him taking prescribed anti-depressants.

I note the previous letter that you sent on this matter on 2 September which you copied to me. I must clarify that I did not respond to your letter as it was directed to Michelle O'Neill. However, I did share it with Welsh Government officials to consider the points you raised and what action may need to be taken.

In Wales, we take an evidence-based approach to deciding which treatments should be routinely available in the NHS. To do this, we rely on the expert advice of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and our own appraisal body, the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG). NICE and the AWMSG recommendations are based on the best available evidence.

NICE's evidence-based recommendations developed by independent committees, including professionals and lay members, and consulted on by stakeholders. We rely upon this robust process to assist health care professionals, patients and their carers' decisions about appropriate treatment and health care.

We also rely on the work of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) which is responsible for ensuring that [medicines](#) and [medical devices](#) work and are acceptably safe.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@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.

May I suggest that you write to both the Chief Executive of NICE, Sir Andrew Dillon, and the MHRA, Dr June Raine, to address any concerns you may have in regards to their processes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services