

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/P/VG/2496/18

Bethan Sayed AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

11 July 2018

Dear Bethan,

I write in response to your plenary question on 26 June in relation to the UK Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS). You queried the implementation of the Immigration Act 2014, with particular reference to the healthcare surcharge paid as part of a visa application. This is a requirement of the immigration process and entitles payees to access the NHS on the same basis as a UK resident.

The Immigration Act 2014 applies across the UK as a whole, and since 2014 has given the Secretary of State powers to provide for a charge to be imposed on persons who apply for immigration permission. The Immigration (Health Charge) Order 2015 implemented the charging regime and sets the annual amount of the IHS. The IHS has been operational for persons coming to the UK on a time limited visit since 2015.

On 5 February 2018, the Minister of State for Immigration informed me of the UK Government's intention to increase the annual amount of the IHS from £200 to £400 for most temporary visitor categories and from £150 to £300 for students and the youth mobility category. This increase was based on the Department of Health and Social Care estimate of the average annual cost of NHS usage by those paying the surcharge, which it calculated to be £470 per annum. The UK Government will make this change by amending the Immigration (Health Charge) Order 2015.

The Department of Health and Social Care estimated that doubling the IHS could generate an additional £220m a year for the NHS towards the cost of usage by payees. I have received assurances that additional funds would be allocated to the Welsh Government through the Barnett formula to similarly meet the costs to the Welsh NHS.

Immigration is a non-devolved matter and any changes made by the Secretary of State to the IHS will apply across the UK. I responded to the Minister of State for Immigration noting the reasons for the proposal and the resultant Barnett consequentials.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

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**

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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services