



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/02682/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

5 March 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 09 February on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the funding of funeral costs for all NHS staff who died from or with Covid-19.

In my letter to you dated 03 November 2020 I set out how I considered funding the funeral costs for NHS Staff who died from or with Covid-19. Within this, I outlined to you how this was fully explored, predominantly my officials considered whether there were any schemes in existence that could be modified for this purpose such as the Child Burial Scheme. The establishment of a brand new scheme was also considered however, these options were deemed to be unworkable. Fundamentally, the three main reasons for this are:

- Identifying those who are NHS Workers would be difficult for local authorities in the administration of such a scheme. Unlike the child burial scheme, where their date of expiration and their date of birth is readily available, the person's profession would not be shown on their death certificate. Therefore there will be difficulties in administering the scheme, obtaining confirmation of eligibility and it would create additional burden on NHS Employers and local authorities at a difficult period;
- Consideration would have to be given to the eligibility of other front line key workers. It could be deemed unfair to only provide this to one group of front-line workers; and
- The timeframe to set up the scheme would take many weeks/months and consideration would need to be given to how those burial costs already met by families could be reimbursed. Retrospective reimbursement would also create additional administration requirements.

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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.

I realise you may be disappointed by this decision but hope you recognise that we have explored this scheme and the associated implications before arriving at this decision.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Gething".

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**

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