

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-490
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01856/14

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

12 June 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 30 April on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-490 – Antiretroviral Medication in Cardiff.

The quoted figure of £15 million of medicines waste per year in Wales is an estimate. It is based on information from waste contractors regulated by the then Environment Agency (now Natural Resources Wales) who collected 254 metric tons of pharmaceutical waste in Wales. Subsequent audits in community pharmacies then determined the approximate cost of a metric ton of waste and revealed the cost of waste medicines was between £15 million and £50 million a year. The proportion that can be specifically attributed to antiretroviral HIV medicine is unknown.

The national guidance on prescribing durations was produced by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group. I must again reiterate that this is generic guidance for the NHS and it is for the prescriber to determine the appropriate interval, taking into account such factors as possible reactions, the need for monitoring, patient compliance, a possible need to change the prescription and the potential to waste NHS resources.

I expect all Health Boards to ensure the needs of the patient are taken into account when adopting the 28 day prescribing policy and that they work closely with patients to ensure a degree of flexibility in the delivery of the medicines. I have been reassured by my officials that this is the case for patients receiving antiretroviral HIV medicine from the Cardiff clinic.

*Best wishes
Mark.*

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper