

Dr Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer, Welsh Government

Reg Kilpatrick, Director for Local Government, Welsh Government

Sent via email only.

15 January 2018

Dear Frank and Reg,

Pandemic influenza is the top risk on the National Risk Assessment. Following a major exercise in October 2016, a cross-UK work programme is underway to further enhance pandemic influenza preparedness. This programme is led jointly by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office and involves a wide range of government departments and the Devolved Administrations.

We are very pleased that the Welsh Government together with the other Devolved Administrations is actively participating in this work and sits on the Pandemic Flu Readiness Board. The work builds on the approach taken in the UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy (2011). We believe that this long-standing approach to collaboration and engagement on our top national risk is vital.

We are reaching the final few months of the current cross-UK pandemic influenza readiness work programme but recognise work will need to be ongoing to address the outcomes. It is timely to write to thank you and your teams for the input to date. Our plans are strengthened through this collaboration and we hope we can all continue to work in this way and share ideas, plans and products.

If you would find it helpful, we suggest that we might meet with you at a convenient slot early in 2018 to further discuss preparedness for pandemic influenza, including the progress made, and how we can continue to work collaboratively on key issues going forward. We would be grateful if your offices would liaise with

NR @dh.gsi.gov.uk and **NR** @cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk who can assist with arrangements.

PD

Katharine Hammond
Director, Civil Contingencies
Secretariat
Cabinet Office

PD

Nick Adkin
Director, Emergency Preparedness
and Health Protection Policy
Department of Health and Social Care

Copied to: Shan Morgan (Permanent Secretary, Welsh Government) **NR** (Cabinet Office) **NR** (Department of Health and Social Care) and David Goulding (Welsh Government)