



Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minister House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

22 December 2020

Dear Baroness Vere,

I am writing about the declaration of a Coronavirus outbreak at the DVLA contact centre in Swansea on 21 December.

We have been concerned about transmission risks at the DVLA site for several months and since September, a team including Public Health Wales, Swansea Council, the Health and Safety Executive and the local Health Board, has been mobilised to assist the DVLA with managing the impact of Covid-19 in the workplace.

The last three weeks has seen a further increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst workers at the site and we are continuing to receive concerning reports about workplace measures and practices at the site.

As the UK Minister responsible for the DVLA's operations, I ask that you ensure the DVLA contact centre in Swansea is operating safely and in compliance with the Coronavirus Regulations and Guidance in Wales. In particular, I am seeking your assurance that:

- A COVID-19 risk assessment has been undertaken in discussion with the workforce and/or their recognised trade union and that the results have been shared with the workforce.
- Workers are being supported to work from home where this is possible and that workers are not being required or placed under pressure to attend the site if there is not a clearly demonstrated business need for them to do so.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru • ps.firstminister@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.

- All reasonable measures are being undertaken to ensure that 2metre physical distancing is maintained at the site and that other reasonable measures are being taken to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

It is imperative that Government, its agencies and public authorities set the right example in the conduct of its operations and I ask that you ensure the DVLA is doing all it can to keep its workforce, local community and Wales safe.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD