

**From:** Wise, Lisa (HSSG - Climate Change Team)

**Sent:** 27 July 2021 13:27

**To:** PS Minister Health & Social Services; Eluned Morgan (Ministerial)

**Subject:** Informal Ministerial Update note - Support to Namibia

**Sending directly with the permission of Private Office.**

Good afternoon Minister

Over the last few weeks colleagues in International Relations have reached out to HSSG to ask us to consider what assistance can be provided to Uganda and Namibia in terms of spare medical equipment and PPE. We understand the request is a result of desperate situations in both countries where the health services are being overwhelmed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Covid waves. Urgent requests for emergency support have been received from several groups supported by the Wales and Africa programme, including requests from the Phoenix project - the partnership between Cardiff University and the University of Namibia. International Relations have assured us that the Namibian and Uganda Governments are being appropriately sighted on the requests.

The FM met with representatives from the Phoenix Project - Prof. Matengu, Vice Chancellor of UNAM and Prof. Judith Hall of Cardiff University on 24th June 2021 - where he heard of the desperate situation and their need for vaccines, oxygen and PPE or equivalent funding.

In response the FM has:

- Written to UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab calling on him to support Namibia, Uganda and Lesotho with vaccines through bilateral donations;
- Asked what extra funds could be made available to support Welsh partners in Namibia and Uganda. An MA (attached) was approved and a £1.5m emergency grant scheme advertised.

Following investigations by the International Relations team it has been established that it is prohibitively expensive to send physical goods to Uganda and so HSSG have been stood down on their requests for assistance. For Namibia, we have been advised that the Phoenix Project are able to arrange for the goods to be flown to Namibia with the costs covered by other donors and the Namibian Government.

Prof. Judith Hall has shared a list of requirements on PPE which has been passed to NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) who have considered what could be released to support Namibia at this time. The list is a significant ask (see attached) and NWSSP have now indicated what stock could be released against it, based on a reasonable assessment that the PPE would not be required in the event our own public health position changed. The stock NWSSP has identified as available for potential donation is listed below and has a value of £7.3m.

Item Code	Description	Number	Cost Total
BWK688	GOWNS DISPOSABLE FLUID RESISTANT WITH THUMB LOOP : PEALZ BL	500,000	£2,100,000
BWM223	FACE MASK MEDICAL TYPE IIR DISPOSABLE (BOX 50) : NWSSP	500,000	£30,000
MRB109	HAND SANITISER LIQUID ALCOHOL GEL 500ML : CL903	200,000	£1,042,000
BTB675	APRON DISPOSABLE POLYTHENE STANDARD WHITE 720MM X 1100MM (28in X 43in)17 MICRON - IMPERIAL (PACK 250) : PROTECTALLAPRONWHITE	100,000	£37,000
BTS063	GOGGLES PROTECTIVE G19 : 12854409	10,000	£51,500
BTS040	FACE VISOR SPLASH FULL SINGE USE LATEX FREE	10,000	£29,600
MVN041	BODY BAG ADULT	5,000	£150,000
MVN032	BODY BAG (POUCHES) POLY SLIT WHITE 93in X 37in THICKER (ROLL 30) : ER6032	3,610	£55,116
QAA050Z	BODY BAG (POUCHES)	1,390	£28,878
FDD973	FACE MASK FFP3 RESPIRATOR UNVALVED HANDANHY : HY9330	648,300	£3,696,191
			<b>£7,220,285</b>

In line with NHS Standing Financial Instructions, NWSSP have sought approval from their audit committee and Velindre Trust Board ahead of seeking formal approval from Andrew Goodall in his capacity as NHS Accounting Officer for writing-off the stock and making the items available for potential donation.

Andrew Goodall has provided agreement, based on NWSSP confirming they have made a reasonable assessment that these materials would not be required in the event that our own public health position changed. HSSG finance are also ensuring the gift will be appropriately referenced in the accounts.

At the current time there are no concerns with regard to loss of these materials from our own supplies. Whilst some previous concern has been expressed about whether FFP3 masks should be provided to all health and care staff outside of red areas, the make of the masks we are proposing to send is not favoured by staff in Wales and would otherwise risk remaining unused. In addition NWSSP have sought legal advice to support the donation and an Asset Donation Agreement has been drawn up which will need to be signed by the receiving organisation should the donation be accepted.

Based on the advice of International Relations that the transportation costs will be met by others, there would be no additional financial implications to the gifting of these items to Namibia. If this position changes we would expect International Relations to submit formal advice.

It is also worth noting that HSSG have responded to a direct request for assistance here and, given a significant amount and value of stock has been identified, we are looking to the International Relations Team to provide assurance on the appropriateness of the donation and steers if there are different priorities or priority

countries for PPE assistance before any donation to Namibia is finalised. International Relations are also working with the Comms Team across the intention to support.

We will keep you updated.

All the best,

Lisa

Lisa Wise MBE

Head of HSSG Climate Change and Operation Supplies (PPE)