<u>Health Secretary to connect with NHS</u> <u>staff in north Wales</u>

Health Service employees in the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust and Public Health Wales staff in North East Wales are the second group of staff to get an opportunity to ask Mr Gething questions about the health service at a Cabinet Connect event.

The Q&A session will be held at the Wrexham Medical Institute.

Vaughan Gething said:

"One of the greatest things about being Wales' health secretary is being able to meet NHS staff across the length and breadth of Wales on a weekly basis. Their dedication and commitment to providing often life-saving healthcare never ceases to amaze me.

"I'm really pleased to be in north Wales today to give frontline staff the opportunity to meet me, ask me questions and discuss the issues in the health service that are important to them.

"Our NHS staff simply wouldn't function without our staff. The Welsh Government's commitment to working with them is clear. We need to continue working together to ensure we develop the NHS to meet the needs of people both now and in the years to come."

Cabinet Connect builds on the success of the Carwyn Connect events, which the First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones has used to meet and get the views of people across Wales.

Dr Peter Higson, Chairman of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board said:

"We are delighted to welcome the Cabinet Secretary to Wrexham for this event. The demands on the NHS are greater than they have ever been and every day our staff are giving their all to care for the people of North Wales.

"Having the Cabinet Secretary take the time to come and meet staff face to face in this way shows that their efforts are recognised and appreciated at the highest level, and I am sure that colleagues will welcome the opportunity to put their questions to Mr Gething."