

# WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Issue Date:** 1 April 2016

**STATUS: COMPLIANCE**

**CATEGORY: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LETTER**

**Title:** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) multi-agency guidelines

**Date of Expiry / Review**

N/A

**For Action by:**

*All persons who are under statutory duties to make arrangements to discharge their functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.*

**Action required by:**

Immediately

**Sender:** Dr Chris Jones, Acting Chief Medical Officer / Medical Director

**DHSS Welsh Government Contact(s) :**

Anthony Davies, Healthcare Policy Division, Welsh Government, Cathays Park 2, CF10 3NQ; 02920 823121

**Enclosure(s):** None

**Dr Chris Jones**  
**Prif Swyddog Meddygol Dros Dro/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru**  
**Acting Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

To: Chief Executives, NHS Wales  
Cc: Health board and trust FGM leads

1 April 2016

Dear Chief Executives

## **FGM MULTI-AGENCY GUIDELINES**

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a criminal offence and a form of violence against women and girls – and therefore should be treated as such. The Home Office has issued revised Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines on Female Genital Mutilation for all persons exercising public functions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

These are statutory guidelines under the Serious Crime Act 2015. The guidelines set out the responsibilities of chief executives, directors and senior managers within agencies involved with safeguarding and supporting women and girls affected by FGM. It covers issues such as staff training, developing inter-agency policies and procedures, raising awareness and developing prevention programmes through outreach work. This document also provides advice to frontline professionals who have responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and protect and support adults from the harms associated with FGM.

I would be grateful if you raised awareness of the guidelines and ensured your organisation is compliant with the requirements therein. If you have any comments, please contact the Healthcare Policy Division at

[MajorHealthConditionsPolicy@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MajorHealthConditionsPolicy@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Jones'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**DR CHRIS JONES**