

Health and Social Services Committee

HSS(2)-07-06(p6)

Meeting date: Wednesday 5th April 2006

Venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Health Bill- NHS Security Management – Document Disclosure

Purpose of Paper

1 At the HSSC on 19th January 2006 Jenny Randerson asked why the Assembly had not sought the additional security management functions relating to the disclosure of documents, taken by the Secretary of State and set out in Pt 4, Ch 3, Clause 41 (3). (In the most recent version this is now Clause 43).

Background to relevant clause in Health Bill

2 Clause 43 (1) (b) confers power to require the production of documents in connection with the exercise of the Secretary of State's security management functions in relation to the health service in England.

Security in NHS Wales

3 In Wales, policy responsibility for NHS security management is retained by the Welsh Assembly Government, and operational responsibility is undertaken by individual NHS Wales bodies. In England the Counter Fraud and Security Management Service has policy and operational responsibility for the management of security in the NHS.

4 In Wales a range of work has been undertaken on lone workers, violence and aggression and the developing of a Framework for Security in NHS Trusts. At the current time it is felt that due to the work already ongoing in Wales it was not advantageous to commission work from CFSMS who take a different approach on some of these issues, or from any other organisation. As a consequence of this it is not felt necessary to seek powers for compulsory disclosure of documents for security management functions in Wales.

Conclusion

In relation to security management NHS Trusts, Local Health Boards, the Assembly and the Police work together on security issues and there has been no indication that additional powers for compulsory disclosure of documents are required.

Action for Subject Committee

The Committee is requested to note the contents of this paper.

Brian Gibbons

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