This response was submitted to the Health and Social Care Committee regarding the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Health and Care Bill

SLCM HCB 01
Ymateb gan: | Response from: Fferylliaeth Gymunedol Cymru | Community Pharmacy Wales
26 January 2022

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

By email: SeneddHealth@senedd.wales

Dear Russell

SUPPLEMENTARY LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MEMORANDUM
UK GOVERNMENT’S HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE BILL

I refer to your letter dated 18 January 2022 in the above connection.

CPW believes that the pandemic has been a real challenge for many healthcare systems, and that it is eminently sensible to learn lessons from the response to the current pandemic and to prepare for any future pandemic.

CPW recognises that Welsh Government cannot predict what a future pandemic could look like, and it could well find itself facing a situation where there are limited stocks of vaccines or other medicines effective against a future virus or disease, and in these circumstances, would need to carefully manage the supply. In this scenario CPW understands that Welsh Government may feel more confident that it could better control supply by taking ownership of the medicines.

CPW has no objections to Welsh Government adopting this approach provided it can be assured that the powers would only be used when a pandemic or health emergency has been officially declared and appropriate remuneration is agreed which adequately reimburses pharmacy contractors for this ‘supply and administration only’ arrangement. CPW would not want to see these powers, which are designed to meet a health emergency, used as an opportunity to move to the central supply of existing medicines such as influenza vaccines.

You will appreciate that these initial thoughts have been agreed without having had sight of the draft legislation. We will study the legislation carefully when it is available to ensure that our concerns are addressed. If they are not, then we reserve the right to make additional representations.

Yours sincerely

Russell

RUSSELL GOODWAY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE