

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-586
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/05280/14

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Petition@Wales.gov.uk

18 October 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, regarding petition P-04-586 from Unison regarding implementing the recommendations of the NHS Pay Review Body and a £7.65 hourly 'Living Wage' for NHS Staff.

I can confirm that the recommendations of both the NHS Pay Review Body and the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration were not accepted on this occasion in Wales in respect of directly employed staff. I have made it clear that my priority is to maintain jobs in NHS Wales and with pay accounting for more than sixty percent of the NHS budget, in an age of austerity, there is no choice but to consider some form of pay restraint to maintain those jobs and services.

Following the recommendations from the pay review bodies earlier this year, the Welsh Government has been keen to work with representatives from trade unions about how an equivalent sum to that made available in England can be distributed to NHS staff in Wales.

My announcement in July this year proposed that staff who currently earn less than the living wage of £7.65 per hour will receive a pay rise to bring them up to this rate. NHS employers and Agenda for Change trade unions are currently revisiting how best to distribute the 2014/15 and 2015/16 pay awards. The 2014/15 pay award aims to provide something for everyone, including the continuation of incremental progression arrangements and the introduction of the living wage.

At a time when there is ongoing financial pressure on the NHS, it is only reasonable that those with the broadest shoulders must bear their share of the burden and it is for this reason that I agreed that very senior managers will not receive an award this year.

I hope this information is helpful for your discussions.

Best wishes,
Mark

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