

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref SF/MD/3553/12

David Rees AM
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee

HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk

16 August 2013

Dear David

At the Health and Social Care Committee on 18 July I agreed to provide you with information on the following:

General Scrutiny Session

- i. A note on how many staff positions have been terminated by Health Boards in recent years and in what disciplines
- ii. Figures from the Deanery on the recruitment of General Practitioners for each Health Board

Financial Scrutiny Session

- i. A note on the review of the Townsend Formula
- ii. A note clarifying the evidence from the Wales Audit Office as to whether any medical treatment was cancelled by Health Boards for financial reasons in the last financial year
- iii. A note on how protected funding for social services has been used by individual local authorities for all years available
- iv. Figures on how many Local Authorities now charge the full capped limit of £50 a week for domiciliary care and how many Local Authorities have increased their charges to £50 a week since the cap was introduced
- v. The Deputy Minister for Social Services also agreed to keep the Committee informed about the progress of discussions on social services funding and the future monitoring of local government expenditure in this area

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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General Scrutiny Session

i) A note on how many staff positions have been terminated by Health Boards in recent years and in what disciplines

This data is not routinely collected or available to the Welsh Government. I have therefore asked officials to contact the health boards for this information. Once this has been collated I will write again to the Health and Social Care Committee and provide you with this information.

ii) Figures from the Deanery on the recruitment of General Practitioners for each Health Board

I provided you with the latest information regarding GP training programmes across Wales in a separate letter on 29 July which I hope you found helpful and which I attach at **Annex 1** for your convenience.

Financial Scrutiny Session

i) A note on the review of the Townsend Formula

The Welsh Government pursued the implementation of the 'Townsend' direct needs formula between 2003/04 and 2007/08. During this period the Welsh Government received increases in its budget each year. Funding adjustments were only made to the growth element of the budget that each Health Board received.

No further progress has been made since the formation of the 7 integrated Local Health Boards in 2009. This is primarily as a consequence of there being no growth funding. However, I am keen for relevant work to be taken forward and as part of the work to introduce a new Finance Regime for the NHS, as set out in our strategic document 'Together for Health', a review of the resource allocation will be carried out. The project will include:

- Developing a resource allocation formula that can be applied both at Local Health Board level and to support further distribution of resources by Health Boards at locality level.
- Ensuring that the needs weighting reflects relevant factors such as demographics and inequalities.

This will be a substantial project that will take some time to fully develop and implement. Consequently the first stage of implementation is unlikely to be before the 2015-16 financial year.

ii) A note clarifying the evidence from the Wales Audit Office as to whether any medical treatment was cancelled by health boards for financial reasons in the last financial year

Although the Wales Audit Office (WAO) state in their report that their local work suggests that some NHS bodies reduced elective activity in order to help manage financial pressures, they have not provided my Department with any specific evidence to support this assertion.

In their report, WAO acknowledge the position is complex and whilst elective activity was below planned levels for the final quarter of 2012-13, the reduction was primarily driven by

the unprecedented demand on our unscheduled care services which required the use of beds and staff that would otherwise have been used on elective capacity. My officials specifically received formal written assurances from all NHS Chief Executives that they did not proactively cancel planned elective activity for financial reasons.

iii) A note on how protected funding for social services has been used by individual local authorities for all years available

We have information on all three years of protection, although for the period 2012 -13 and 2013 -14 this is budgeted expenditure rather than actual. All 22 Local Authorities have indicated that over the 3 year period they have delivered on, or exceeded, the expenditure protected for social services by 1% per annum above the Welsh Block Budget change. **Annex 2** shows the annual and overall percentage change by authority.

iv) Figures on how many Local Authorities now charge the full capped limit of £50 a week for domiciliary care and how many Local Authorities have increased their charges to £50 a week since the cap was introduced

I can confirm that the £50 maximum charge has been in place across all local authority areas since April 2011 and that Welsh Government has agreed an additional £3.2m (£13.3m in total) to recompense Councils for this policy. However, I can also assure the Committee that local authorities charge the service user the actual cost of the service where this is less than £50 a week in accordance with local charging policies. In all situations, where the service user is assessed against national criteria in Regulations as not having the financial means to cover the costs, they will not have to pay.

v) The Deputy Minister for Social Services also agreed to keep the Committee informed about the progress of discussions on social services funding and the future monitoring of local government expenditure in this area

I note that the Deputy Minister for Social Services also agreed to keep the Committee informed about the progress of discussions on social services funding and the future monitoring of local government expenditure in this area

I trust the above is clear and helpful.

Best wishes
Mark

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David Rees AM
Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales

29 July 2013

Dear David,

I attended the Health and Social Care Committee on 18th July and agreed to provide you with information about GP training programmes across Wales. I set out below the latest available information.

The training posts available to commence on 1st August 2013 are as follows

Health Board	Scheme	Number of Vacancies
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	Bridgend	16
	Neath Port Talbot	6
	Swansea	18
Aneurin Bevan	Gwent	17
Betsi Cadwaladr	Bangor	8
	Dyffryn Clwyd	4
	Wrexham	8
Cardiff & Vale	Cardiff	16
Cwm Taf	Glamorgan Valleys	15
Hywel Dda	Aberystwyth	6
	Carmarthen	10
	Pembrokeshire	6

Following the recruitment process 4 posts in Aberystwyth remain unfilled.

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The Wales Deanery have reported the vacancy fill rate for 2013 as 97%. This compares to 81% in 2012 and 80% in 2011.

In addition I can confirm that between 2008 and 2012 544 Certificates of Completion of Training (CCT) were awarded by the Wales Deanery. These are GP trainees who have completed training and obtained entry onto the specialist register. Final figures for 2013 are not yet available.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best wishes

Mark

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Minister for Health and Social Services

Social Services Budgeted Net Revenue Expenditure

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	3 year change
Social Services Protection Level Required	-0.33%	1.58%	2.08%	3.33%

Table 1 : Budgeted Social Services Expenditure

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Isle of Anglesey	27,542	28,355	27,591	29,813
Gwynedd	54,747	56,878	57,875	58,953
Conwy	49,421	50,703	52,529	53,620
Denbighshire	44,635	44,783	44,965	46,417
Flintshire	57,893	59,414	59,689	63,020
Wrexham	53,794	54,918	56,605	59,528
Powys	58,833	62,636	62,058	68,976
Ceredigion	27,983	29,777	30,085	33,529
Pembrokeshire	45,543	47,972	51,145	56,763
Carmarthenshire	74,380	78,419	83,107	88,561
Swansea	97,812	100,772	103,010	109,913
Neath Port Talbot	72,874	75,439	81,886	86,346
Bridgend	55,984	56,063	57,195	63,778
Vale of Glamorgan	46,598	47,667	48,686	51,548
Rhondda Cynon Taf	110,097	116,641	122,329	128,138
Merthyr Tydfil	25,560	27,755	27,112	29,675
Caerphilly	72,777	73,370	75,243	79,544
Blaenau Gwent	35,298	35,796	36,094	37,782
Torfaen	42,052	42,786	43,350	44,928
Monmouthshire	34,456	34,278	37,268	38,870
Newport	62,682	61,209	60,196	67,716
Cardiff	126,865	125,652	131,734	146,100
Total Wales	1,277,825	1,311,283	1,349,751	1,443,518

Table 2 : Year-on-Year growth by Authority

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	3 year change
Isle of Anglesey	3.0%	-2.7%	8.1%	8.2%
Gwynedd	3.9%	1.8%	1.9%	7.7%
Conwy	2.6%	3.6%	2.1%	8.5%
Denbighshire	0.3%	0.4%	3.2%	4.0%
Flintshire	2.6%	0.5%	5.6%	8.9%
Wrexham	2.1%	3.1%	5.2%	10.7%
Powys	6.5%	-0.9%	11.1%	17.2%
Ceredigion	6.4%	1.0%	11.4%	19.8%
Pembrokeshire	5.3%	6.6%	11.0%	24.6%
Carmarthenshire	5.4%	6.0%	6.6%	19.1%
Swansea	3.0%	2.2%	6.7%	12.4%
Neath Port Talbot	3.5%	8.5%	5.4%	18.5%
Bridgend	0.1%	2.0%	11.5%	13.9%
Vale of Glamorgan	2.3%	2.1%	5.9%	10.6%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5.9%	4.9%	4.7%	16.4%
Merthyr Tydfil	8.6%	-2.3%	9.5%	16.1%
Caerphilly	0.8%	2.6%	5.7%	9.3%
Blaenau Gwent	1.4%	0.8%	4.7%	7.0%
Torfaen	1.7%	1.3%	3.6%	6.8%
Monmouthshire	-0.5%	8.7%	4.3%	12.8%
Newport	-2.3%	-1.7%	12.5%	8.0%
Cardiff	-1.0%	4.8%	10.9%	15.2%
Total Wales	2.6%	2.9%	6.9%	13.0%