Dear Lowri

Many thanks for supplying the report from the recent Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee short inquiry into The National Health Service (Welsh Language in Primary Care Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2019.

While we do not disagree with any of the recommendations therein, Community Pharmacy Wales continues to have reservations in terms of the way that the regulations have been framed. As we made clear in both our written and oral evidence, the requirements in the Regulations as drafted fall on a NHS pharmacist delivering 'pharmaceutical services'.

The Regulations state that the definition of pharmaceutical services is as stated in regulation 2(1) of the 2013 Regulations.

The 2013 Regulations are the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Wales) Regulations 2013. In these Regulations it states that the definition of pharmaceutical services is 'pharmaceutical services that fall within section 80 of the 2006 Act and do not include directed services'.

CPW remains of the opinion, therefore, that the requirements of the Regulations may only apply to the dispensing of prescriptions and the supply of medicines. This is not an accurate reflection of the work of community pharmacies and we reiterate that the regulations will only produce meaningful change if they cover the supply of medicines together with the provision of both NHS Advanced and Enhanced Services.

Put simply yet again, the Regulations as drafted to cover only the dispensing of medicines and not the wide range of other services a community pharmacy undertakes, be that smoking cessation or other common place health advice, which can continue to be carried out without any reference to the use of the Welsh language. Bearing in mind the thrust of the rest of the Committee's report is directed toward maximising the use of the Welsh language in primary care settings, we are surprised and disappointed that our simple and practical point around re-framing the services to maximise Welsh language use has not been taken on board in any way.

We are happy for this response to be shared with members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

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