

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref CLA17
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06525/11

David Melding AM
Chair
Constitutional & Legislative Affairs Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

11th
October 2011

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 27 September and for the Committee's report on the merits of the National Health Service (Concerns, Complaints and Redress Arrangements) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

Whilst I note your view that the introduction of the amending regulations suggests that there may have been insufficient consultation with NHS bodies in other parts of the UK in relation to cross-border issues, I do not agree.

There was a technical consultation on the cross border aspects of the Regulations in September 2010 and officials also entered into correspondence with the Department of Health (DH) and the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) who indicated they were broadly content with the proposed Regulations and willing to work with officials to agree the practical details. Much of the cross border detail needs to be contained in commissioning agreements and guidance, rather than on the face of the Regulations which in this instance provide a framework.

Following officials' meeting with the DH and NHSLA, and their subsequent advice on the timescales needed to work up the practical details, I agreed to make an amendment to the Regulations. I am advised work is underway, that a group has been set up to consider the details and that the intention is for guidance to be prepared in draft form towards the end of the year. This will be considered by the group and finalised for roll out to English and Welsh NHS bodies in time for the coming into force date on 1 April 2012.

Regards
Lesley

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