

Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
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08 March 2018

Dai Lloyd AM
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Committee evidence session Wednesday 07 March 2018

Dear Dai Lloyd AM,

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Committee on Wednesday 07 March.

I felt the sessions on EMIS and the Medical Performers List were both constructive, with reasonable consensus on some positive ways forward.

EMIS

RCGP Wales is particularly grateful that you allocated an additional session on EMIS. In my evidence I outlined some of the support practices will need; giving practices financial support, staffing support, comprehensive staff training and sensible timings for migration is essential. This is outlined at length in my letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Health, and I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate the importance of supporting practices.

I hope the Committee will be able to help ensure that any encouraging signs regarding support to practices will be followed up on, in a way that practices feel on the frontline. GP morale was mentioned during the session and RCGP Wales is still receiving feedback from disillusioned members who are concerned about the upcoming change. While there have been clear commitments that the financial resource for the support needed will be provided, clarity is needed on the funding streams for this support.

For RCGP Wales, the priority is to ensure practices receive the support they need to minimise any potential disruption to patient care.

Performers List

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I was pleased with the degree of consensus on the Performers List. Four main themes were covered: making it easier for GPs to practice in different areas within Wales; making it easier for GPs to work across England and Wales; making it easier for UK trained GPs who have worked abroad to return to Wales, and allowing a potentially increasing number of UK doctors who have trained as GPs in countries such as Australia and New Zealand to return to practice in Wales. At a time when the GP workforce is so stretched, RCGP Wales would greatly welcome improvements in all of these areas.

There was unanimous agreement that existing processes could be streamlined, to ensure the existing system is doing what it is supposed to be doing. There also seemed to be consensus behind moving towards mutual recognition between each country's separate lists, which is consistent with evidence submitted by my colleague Dr Jonathan Leach and which I believe offers an achievable goal.

The Performers List risks placing artificial barriers between GPs and treating patients and we would welcome action to remove them.

The next steps

You indicated that the Committee would write to the Cabinet Secretary taking forward the key themes from our evidence session. RCGP Wales would be grateful for any assistance you are able to provide in securing positive change in both of these important areas.

Thank you once again for your invitation, and RCGP Wales looks forward to working with the Committee in the future.

Best wishes,



Dr Rebecca Payne
Chair
RCGP Wales