



Our ref: WQ84024 & WQ84025

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Senedd Member for Aberconwy

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16 December 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me what consideration I have given to reviewing the hours worked by General Practitioners as part of the General Medical Services Contract Reform for 2021-22. You also asked me to clarify how the winter capacity fund of £2 million is to be shared between general practitioner practices across Wales.

In Wales GPs working in partnerships hold GMS contracts to provide services between the hours 8am and 6:30pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays. The working hours of individual GPs are a matter for each partnership to agree in delivery of the contract they hold with a health board. Outside of contracted hours responsibility for service delivery rests with health boards.

Across Wales, practices are facing enormous pressures in dealing with the continuing public health emergency, alongside high levels of patient demand for non-covid related illness. Practice managers and their teams are working hard to meet these demands whilst also having to deal with high levels of staff sickness due to Covid itself and the prolonged demands of service delivery through the pandemic. It is my preference to support practices by funding more resource to provide services that meet patient need within the existing contracted hours.

I have made £2m new funding available during 2021-22, to support additional winter capacity. This is to fund additional staff resources above what is already in place within GMS. The funds available will be allocated to Health Boards and will enable the reimbursement of 100% of the cost of either additional posts upon appointment or additional

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

hours worked by existing post holders. The funds will not be shared between GP practices, they will be allocated to those that create additional staff capacity and this will be discussed as part of the contract implementation group which includes representatives from Welsh Government, health boards and the profession.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services