



Our ref: WQ89580

Jane Dodds MS  
Senedd Regional Member for Mid and West Wales

[Jane.Dodds@senedd.wales](mailto:Jane.Dodds@senedd.wales)

23 November 2023

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me what consideration the Welsh Government has given to producing a workforce strategy to ensure that Wales trains, recruits and retains enough GPs to move toward the OECD average number of GPs per 1000 people.

*'A Healthier Wales: Our Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care Workforce'* commissioned by Welsh Government from Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), in partnership with Social Care Wales, was published in 2022. The strategy sets a 10-year vision to enable us to realise our ambition to meet our aim of 'A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce'.

This strategic vision has been key to ensuring we maintain our long-term direction towards a sustainable workforce for the future, supported by a continued investment in education and training. Earlier this year I was pleased to announce a £281.98m investment package to support education and training programmes for healthcare professionals here in Wales in 2023/24. This investment represents an increase of 8% compared with 2022/23, which includes an extra £1.68m (4.8% increase) to support core GP training numbers. This continues to be a record level of funding and will support the highest ever number of training opportunities in Wales.

The GP speciality training programme has been significantly expanded over the past three years and since the launch of the Train Work Live campaign, there has been a significant increase in the fill rate for GP training. The current recruitment target of 160 new GP trainees each year is consistently being achieved.

In January we published the *National Workforce Implementation Plan* (NWIP) for the NHS in Wales. The plan contains a series of actions intended to expand on and accelerate the progress of the Health, Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and Social Care Wales (SCW) Workforce Strategy. There is a specific action in the plan for HEIW to produce a

*Primary Care Workforce Plan* which will be published next year. The *Primary Care Workforce Plan* will develop system priorities as we move through recovery.

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