

BY E-MAIL

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

7 October 2022

Dear Mr George,

We are writing to share with you the Professional Standards Authority's new [report](#) *Safer care for all – solutions from professional regulation and beyond*. The findings and recommendations within the report are very relevant to the ongoing work of the Health and Social Care Committee.

The report describes 'a fragmented and complex' patient and service user safety system. It highlights some of the biggest challenges affecting the quality and safety of health and social care across the UK today through the lens of professional regulation. It puts forward our recommendations, along with a call to action and commitment by the Authority to work together with all stakeholders on solutions towards safer care for all. The report covers four key themes:

1. Tackling inequalities
2. Regulating for new risks
3. Facing up to the workforce crisis
4. Accountability, fear and public safety.

The findings and recommendations of the report align with current areas of focus by the Committee, in particular the areas of health inequalities and the health and social care workforce. The report provides recommendations on how policy change can allow professional regulation to be part of the solution to these challenges.

The main recommendation in the report is the appointment of an independent Health and Social Care Safety Commissioner (or equivalent) for each UK country. These commissioners would identify current, emerging, and potential risks across the whole health and social care system, and bring about the necessary action across organisations. They would also coordinate public inquiries and reviews and monitor how recommendations are implemented. This would build on the recommendation from the Cumberlege Review for a Patient Safety Commissioner for medicines and medical devices. We are committed to working alongside the Committee and the Senedd should the decision be taken to bring forward legislation to create this role for Wales.

In its twentieth year, the Authority is publishing this report as a call to action for us all to work together to address some of the major outstanding safety concerns for health and social care. We know that not everyone will agree with our recommendations, but we want to work with patients and services users, regulators, registers, professional and representative organisations, governments, and all stakeholders across health and social care to tackle the big issues we describe in the report.

You can find all the resources related to the report on our dedicated *Safer care for all* [web page](#).

We hope that you find our report of interest. We would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our recommendations and how these align with the work of the Committee and your own personal areas of interest.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Clamp
Chief Executive



Caroline Corby
Chair

cc. Sarah Beasley, Committee Clerk