

Health board Chief Executives

Neil Frow, Managing Director, NHS Wales Shared
Services Partnership

Dr Sian Lewis, Managing Director, Welsh Health
Specialised Services Committee

4 April 2023

Dear Colleagues

Health Service Procurement (Wales) Bill

The Health and Social Care Committee is currently scrutinising the Welsh Government's Health Service Procurement (Wales) Bill. During our scrutiny, the Welsh Government has indicated that a key driver for the Bill is the proposed introduction of the Provider Selection Regime in England and the desirability of maintaining a 'level playing field' for Wales through broad alignment of health service procurement regimes in Wales and England. We would be grateful for your assistance in helping us to understand the potential implications should such alignment not take place.

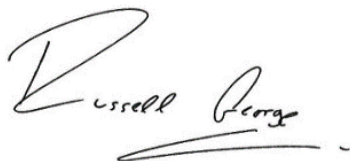
In oral evidence on 30 March 2023, the Minister for Health and Social Services told us that the Welsh Government wished to avoid a situation where, for example, organisations that are providing a service in both England and Wales may choose to no longer provide services in the smaller Welsh market because of a different procurement regime, with subsequent loss of services in Wales.

We would like to understand the potential extent of this risk. We are aware from the Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill, and the evidence given to us on 30 March by the Minister and her officials, that the Welsh Government discussed these issues with NHS Wales finance, procurement and commissioning leads as it developed the Bill.

We would be grateful if you could provide any specific examples of contracts or services for health services that you procure, and that you are concerned could be lost or otherwise affected if the PSR proposals were implemented in England, and no equivalent regime were introduced in Wales. We appreciate that this request could include information that is commercially sensitive; we would be willing to treat any such information in confidence.

To enable us to consider this information as we prepare our report and recommendations on the Bill, we would be grateful for a response **by Monday 17 April 2023**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.