

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-600
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/05470/14

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair
Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Petition@Wales.gov.uk

29 October 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition: P-04-600 Save General Practice, from the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Thank you for bringing my attention to this petition. I support fully General Practice as an integral part of the NHS, and recognise that GPs, along with other healthcare professionals across Wales, are facing increased daily pressures.

The Welsh Government is committed to continuous investment in the health service and ensuring Health Boards align their services to provide the maximum benefit for patients within the resources available. We are working towards a preventative primary care-led NHS; one that is integrated with social care and has close links with services provided by the third and independent sectors.

Since 2003, investment in general practice has increased by £137m; from £322m in 2003-04 to £459m in 2013-14, demonstrating our commitment to provide safe and sustainable health services in the community and close to people's homes. In relation to 2014-15, in line with the recommendations of the Review Body for Doctors and Dentists, investment in general practice has been increased by a further 0.28% or £1.3m.

In addition, I announced recently a further investment of £3.5m for primary health care services in 2014-15. This investment reflects the need to rebalance on the principles of prudent healthcare the way the NHS provides services.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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The funding will be targeted at action to improve health and reduce inequalities in the most deprived communities, develop primary care teams and provide eye care services closer to people's homes.

The additional funding will help to realise our ambition to create a strong, highly-trained primary care workforce, which can deliver a wide-range of services in local communities, reducing our dependence on hospital-based care, together with tackling poverty and reducing inequalities which are key priorities for the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely,
Mark

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