



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



05 September 2019

Dear colleagues,

We wanted to take this opportunity to collectively write to the GP profession, Health Boards and Welsh Government officials to update you following the announcement of the new GMS Contract 2019-20 in June.

Following the announcement of the new contract for 2019-20, the Directions to Local Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2013 were amended to include the agreed uplift to expenses. This came into effect as of 1 July 2019, backdated to April 1 2019.

Whilst negotiations took longer than we would have hoped for, since the announcement, we have focussed on introduction of the agreed changes. These changes have required careful consideration in terms of implementation, particularly around timing in relation to payment. This work over the last few months has included drafting clear guidance and engaging with our stakeholders to ensure we have considered the practicalities of the new arrangements.

On 4 September, we met to discuss the final details and we are pleased to say that guidance relating to the new Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework (QAIF), Access Standards and Partnership Premium have now been agreed and published at <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=480&pid=99340>. The Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2013 will also be amended to include QAIF and the new Partnership Premium. The amendment Direction is expected to come into force on 1 October 2019.

At this meeting, we also took the opportunity to look ahead to the coming year, discussing how we will progress the reform programme aligned to A Healthier Wales, along with the role that the GMS Contract Oversight Group will have.

We have committed through this year's agreement to substantial areas of work over the next year which include a review of premises and consideration of enhanced services and cluster working. In addition, there are also legislative changes required as a result of the new contract.

These are complex and wide ranging areas of consideration but we remain committed to working collectively, through the tripartite approach, to drive these forward with a view to recommending change that underpins the sustainability of General Practice.

Going forward, Health Boards will work with practices over the coming weeks to explain the changes in more detail. Should you have any further queries on the guidance or changes then please contact HSS-PrimaryCareMailbox@gov.wales.

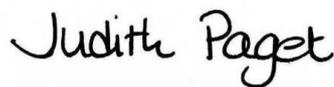
Yours sincerely,



Frances Duffy

Director

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Judith Paget

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