

# Health and Social Services Committee

## HSS(2)-1-06(p.7)

**Date:** 19 January 2006

**Venue:** Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly for Wales

**Title:** The Health Bill

### **Purpose**

1. The Health Bill is currently before Parliament. On 21 June 2005, the National Assembly in Plenary remitted it to the Committee for scrutiny. (its provisional title then was the Health Improvement and Protection Bill.)

2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Committee's for scrutinising primary legislation, Members have been invited to notify any amendments they would wish to see made to the Bill and any points of clarification.

### **Points of Clarification**

3. The following points of clarification have been raised:

i. Jenny Randerson AM

Why does the Bill not include framework clauses where appropriate?

ii. Jenny Randerson AM

Part 2, Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections refers only to England.

(a) Is the Minister satisfied that he has all the powers necessary to introduce similar measures in Wales?

(b) Does the Minister intend to introduce similar measures in Wales, and if so, when?

iii. Jenny Randerson AM

Part 4 Chapter 2 Clause 35 – general ophthalmic services contracts – Can the Minister confirm that none of this clause applies to Wales?

iv. Helen Mary Jones AM

Will the Minister detail any proposed changes to the contracts of optometrists in Wales?

v. Helen Mary Jones

Will the Minister detail how this Bill might increase access to ophthalmic services and extend the range of people in Wales that could receive free eye tests?

vi. Jenny Randerson AM

Part 4 Chapter 3 Protection of the NHS from Fraud and Other Unlawful Activities - Clause 41 (3).

(a) Why has the Welsh Assembly Government not thought it necessary to seek the additional "security management functions" set out here for the Secretary of State in England?

(b) Does the Minister have the power to make similar provisions for Wales if they are thought necessary?

## **Proposed Amendments**

4. None were submitted

Committee Service

16 January 2006