

Public Accounts Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 3 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 19 March 2013**

Meeting time: **09:00 – 11:00**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_400000_19_03_2013&t=0&l=en

Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Darren Millar (Chair)
Mohammad Asghar (Oscar) AM
Mike Hedges
Julie Morgan
Gwyn R Price
Jenny Rathbone
Aled Roberts
Jocelyn Davies

Witnesses:

Dr Sharon Blackford, British Medical Association
Dr Trevor Pickersgill, British Medical Association

Committee Staff:

Tom Jackson (Clerk)
Daniel Collier (Deputy Clerk)
Joanest Jackson (Legal Advisor)

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public.

2. Consultant Contract in Wales: Progress with Securing the Intended Benefits – Evidence from the Welsh Government

2.1 The Chair welcomed David Sissling, Director General, Health, Social Services & Children, Department for Health, Social Services and Children; Ruth Hussey, Chief Medical Officer, Department for Health, Social Services and Children; and Chris Jones, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department for Health, Social Services and Children.

2.2 The Committee scrutinised the witnesses.

Action points:

The Welsh Government agreed to provide:

- A timetable outlining how the NHS in Wales will implement the recommendations made in the Wales Audit Office report;
- Further information on projects which the NHS in Wales had commissioned CHKS to undertake, and clarification on how the NHS in Wales had concluded that this agreement represented good value for money;
- Feedback on the discussions between the Welsh Government and the Office of National Statistics regarding fair and meaningful measures of consultant productivity;
- Clarification on the arrangements in place to evaluate the impact that consultants' private practice commitments have on their NHS commitments;
- Further information on how NHS bodies go about recouping costs from consultants where they may be using NHS facilities to undertake private practice, and whether there have been instances where the NHS has purchased a consultants' time allocated for private practice;
- Further information on whether the impact of flexible working arrangements arising from the amended contract has increased the number of women consultants.

3. Consultant Contract in Wales: Progress with Securing the Intended Benefits – Evidence from the British Medical Association

3.1 The Chair welcomed Dr Sharon Blackford, Chair, Welsh Consultants Committee; and Dr Trevor Pickersgill, Deputy Chair, Welsh Consultants Committee.

3.2 The Committee questioned the witnesses on the findings of the Auditor General's report 'Consultant Contract in Wales: Progress with Securing the Intended Benefits'.

4. Papers to note

4.1 The Committee noted the Welsh Government's response to action points from the meeting on 18 February 2013, and the minutes of the meeting on 12 March 2013.

5. Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

items 6 and 7

6. Consideration of evidence on Consultant Contract in Wales: Progress with Securing the Intended Benefits

6.1 The Committee discussed the evidence received on its inquiry into Consultant Contract in Wales: Progress with Securing the Intended Benefits.

7. Consideration of correspondence from Wales Audit Office on a potential Value for Money study

7.1 The Committee discussed potential value for money studies to be carried out by the auditors of the Wales Audit Office.

