

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Cyllid](#) ar [Cyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru 2024-25](#).

This response was submitted to the [Finance Committee](#) consultation on the [Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25](#).

WGDB_24-25 04 : Ymateb gan: Fferylliaeth Gymunedol Cymru (Saesneg yn unig) |
Response from: Community Pharmacy Wales (English only)





Community Pharmacy Wales response to a call for information by The Committee of the Welsh Parliament on the

Welsh Government Draft Budget proposals for 2024-25

Date: October 2023

Contact Details
Russell Goodway
Chief Executive
Community Pharmacy Wales
3rd Floor, Caspian Point 2
Caspian Way
CARDIFF, CF10 4DQ
Tel: [REDACTED]
E-Mail [REDACTED]

Community Pharmacy Wales (CPW) represent community pharmacy on NHS matters and seeks to ensure that the best possible services, provided by pharmacy contractors in Wales, are available through NHS Wales. It is the body recognised by the Welsh Government in accordance with *Sections 83 and 85 National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006* as 'representative of persons providing pharmaceutical services'.

Community Pharmacy Wales are the only organisation that represents every community pharmacy in Wales. It works with Government and its agencies, such as local Health Boards, to protect and develop high quality community pharmacy-based NHS services and to shape the community pharmacy contract and its associated regulations, to achieve the highest standards of public health and the best possible patient outcomes. CPW represents the entire network of around 700 pharmacies across Wales. Pharmacies are located in high streets, town centres and villages across Wales as well as in the major metropolitan centres and edge of town retail parks.

In addition to the dispensing of prescriptions, Welsh community pharmacies provide a broad range of patient services on behalf of NHS Wales. These face-to-face NHS Wales services, available from qualified pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians include, Pharmacist Independent Prescribing Services, contraception services, Discharge Medicines Reviews, Smoking Cessation, Influenza Vaccination, Palliative Care Medicines Supply, Emergency Supply, Substance Misuse and the Common Ailments services.

CPW are pleased to have the opportunity to respond to this important consultation. The community pharmacy network across Wales makes a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Wales as well as managing the supply of over 80 million prescribed items accounting for over £600 million of the Welsh budget. The new contract, agreed between community pharmacy and the Welsh Government clearly identifies the ability of the network to deliver a greater range of clinical services and to take pressure off GP practices and secondary care if supported financially.

Part 2: Budgeting for 2024-25

CPW would like The Committee of the Welsh Government to ensure that Welsh Government has considered the following four opportunities in its 2024-25 budget in relation to community pharmacy funding.

Core Funding: The cost of funding the community pharmacy network to Welsh Government is significantly less than the value it returns, however the effect of many years of below inflation increases in funding and the unprecedented inflation-driven increases in operating costs falling on pharmacy contractors has pushed many pharmacies to the edge of viability with around 20% of pharmacies



changing hands and twenty-one pharmacies closing their doors completely. We now have the lowest number of pharmacies in memory.

CPW would therefore strongly recommend that Welsh Government set aside funding in the budget for 2024-25 to protect communities across Wales from losing their community pharmacy and, in addition, to set aside additional funding to fully integrate community pharmacy into primary care and invest in the upgrading of premises. The Welsh Government has led the UK in the way it has developed its community pharmacy contract and now is the time to take the next step forward on this journey.

Premises funding: In order to facilitate the delivery of a broader range of clinical services there is a need to upgrade inadequate pharmacy premises and consultation rooms. Currently community pharmacies do not have access to NHS Premises Improvement Grants and simply extending access to this grant could result in a significant improvement in premises and capacity.

Pension Inequality: The current employer pension contribution in community pharmacy is around 6% compared to the 20% plus contribution for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians employed in hospitals. This is a barrier to staff movement and progression between the sectors and is a major contributor to the workforce pressures felt within the community pharmacy sector. CPW would wish to see all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the community pharmacy sector invited to join the NHS Wales Pension Scheme and for the cost of this to be included in the primary care budget for 2024-25.

Insurance: The Welsh Government has provided pharmacists in the community pharmacy sector the opportunity to become independent prescribers and from 2026 onward all new pharmacists will be qualified as independent prescribers. From an indemnity insurance perspective, the increased risk from prescribing will result in significantly higher insurance premiums the cost of which will act as a barrier to progress. CPW feel that, in line with their GP colleagues, all prescribing activity should be insured via the Welsh Risk Pool.

Part 3: Conclusion

This is a time of significant opportunity for community pharmacies in Wales and also a time of significant risk to their viability. CPW would ask the Committee to ensure that Welsh Government has recognised both the risks and opportunities in its budget planning for 2024-25.

CPW agree that the content of this response can be made public.

CPW welcome communication in either English or Welsh.



For acknowledgement and further Contact:

Russell Goodway
Chief Executive
Community Pharmacy Wales
3rd Floor, Caspian Point 2
Caspian Way
CARDIFF, CF10 4DQ
Tel: [REDACTED]
E-Mail [REDACTED]