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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

7 October 2024

Dear Mike,

Further to the Committee's comments in the letter dated 24 September 2024, the Welsh Government is writing to provide further clarity on Technical Scrutiny point 2.

The Welsh Government has accepted that in the definition of "general medical practitioner" it was unclear from the text whether the register referred to is that maintained under section 2 or section 34C of the Medical Act 1983. The policy intention was to ensure that general practitioners were restricted from prescribing puberty blockers unless permitted by the Regulations. That legal effect is achieved because either register includes qualified general practitioners as per the original policy intention.

For the Committee's information, upon further consideration it is now the intention for the restrictions to also apply to non-medical prescribers working in general practice who could prescribe puberty blockers but are not included on a register under those provisions (for example an independent nurse prescriber or an independent pharmacist prescriber who is prescribing under a general medical services "GMS" contract). The Welsh Government are in the process of preparing amendment regulations and therefore, intend to lay those regulations within the next month so that anyone prescribing under a GMS contract will be subject to the restriction on prescribing puberty blockers.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.