

September 26

Peter Fox MS  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Dear Peter,

**RE: Inquiry into the future of general practice in Wales**

Dear Chair,

As you will know next Thursday my colleagues Liz Hallett and Helen Davies, members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) Welsh Pharmacy Board, will be giving evidence to the Committee as part of your inquiry into the future of general practice in Wales. I am writing ahead of that session to inform you of important new work which I believe will be of direct relevance to the Committee's deliberations.

At the *Pharmacy: Delivering a Healthier Wales* Conference, held on 25 September, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Jeremy Miles MS, announced that the Welsh Government has commissioned the RPS to lead an independent review of the role of pharmacy professionals working in and for general practice in Wales.

This review will examine how pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and wider pharmacy teams are currently working in and alongside general practice and will make evidence-based recommendations to maximise their impact in improving patient care, safety and outcomes.

Over the last decade we have seen a rapid expansion in the number of pharmacy professionals delivering direct patient care in general medical practice. We estimate that more than 7% of pharmacists and 4% of pharmacy technicians in Wales now work in this sector. This growth presents significant opportunities for improving the prescribing and use of medicines, leading to better health outcomes and a reduction in medicines-related harm and waste. However, there remain considerable challenges, with wide variation in roles and impact across Wales. An independent review will help



Patron:  
**His Majesty King Charles III**

Chief Executive:  
**Paul Bennett FRPharms**

President:  
**Prof. Claire Anderson FRPharms**

England Board Chair:  
**Tase Oputu MRPharms MFRPSII**

Scotland Board Chair:  
**Andrew Carruthers MRPharms**

Wales Board Chair:  
**Dr. Geraldine MCCaffrey MRPharms**

identify how best to support consistency, maximise expertise, and inform future policy development.

The key deliverable of the review will be a report to Welsh Government covering the following objectives:

- Map Current Pharmacy Workforce, Roles and Activities.
- Assess Alignment with NHS Wales Priorities and Unique Skillsets of Pharmacy Professionals.
- Identify Facilitators and Barriers to the Delivery of Pharmaceutical Care.
- Identify Best Practice and Innovation.
- Evaluate Leadership and Governance Structures
- Support System-Wide Integration
- Make Evidence-Based Recommendations

The review will take place over a seven-month period, with a final report submitted to Welsh Government. Given the timescales, it is unlikely the report will be published before the end of this Senedd term. We will, however, ensure that the successor Committee in the next Senedd is fully informed of its findings.

I hope the Committee finds this update helpful in the context of your current inquiry. The RPS is committed to supporting the Committee's work, and we look forward to contributing to the discussion next week.

Yours sincerely,



Elen Jones  
Director for Wales, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

