

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref SF MD 2136 14

David Rees AM
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

12 July 2014

Dear David,

You will recall that when we debated the Health and Social Care Committee's report on the work of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales in plenary on 4 June that I signalled my intention to conduct a review of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales. I announced that Ruth Marks, the former Older People's Commissioner for Wales, had agreed to lead on this work.

I have now agreed the terms of reference for the review and attach a copy for information.

Mrs Marks will report her findings and proposals in the autumn of 2014.

Best wishes
Mark.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

cc
Elin Jones AM
Darren Millar AM
Kirsty Williams AM

Welsh Government
Review of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
Terms of Reference

Background

In July 2013 the Health and Social Care Committee announced their decision to conduct a short inquiry into the work of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW). Their report was published on 21 March 2014. The Committee recommended the Welsh Government should undertake a fundamental review of HIW to reform, develop and improve its regulatory and inspection functions. The Welsh Government agreed that ten years after its creation - and now with a very different set of legislative powers available to this National Assembly - the time was right for such a review. In the decade of its operation HIW has, undoubtedly, acquired a series of additional responsibilities. The review will consider whether its remit is, now, sufficiently coherent and look for ways in which it may be able to be streamlined and certainly to be strengthened. The review will also consider the legislative powers of the Welsh Ministers which are exercised by HIW.

Purpose

This independent review will therefore address the following areas:

- To review HIW's existing functions and responsibilities. This will include plotting HIW's history and describing the additional responsibilities that it has acquired during its 10 year history, to determine: if any best sit elsewhere; or if there are any gaps across healthcare settings that need to be addressed.
- To consider the remit of HIW in respect of the NHS and the independent healthcare sector to determine if there is sufficient synergy across the sectors and application of common standards. This should cover both the inspection and regulatory arm of its remit.
- To draw on the experiences of inspectorates elsewhere, for example, identifying what lessons Wales can learn from methodologies being developed in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England.
- To look at the existing web of legislation underpinning HIW and form a view on where its needs to be consolidated, simplified and/or strengthened, taking into account the changing provision of healthcare services and shift to more community based care.
- To take into account the wider related work, including the Audit, Inspection and Regulation Review, Regulation & Inspection Bill, Community Health Council reform and the relevant actions arising from the Williams Commission, in order to consider the potential implications of this for the operation of HIW.
- To undertake a period of engagement with key stakeholders to seek wider views on the future function and responsibilities of HIW

- To develop proposals to inform part of a green paper setting out the scope for an NHS Quality Bill and make recommendations for any immediate actions that could be put in place ahead of any legislative change.

The review will commence in July 2014 and will report its findings and proposals in the autumn of 2014.