



2 December 2013

Dear Colleague,

The National Assembly for Wales' Health and Social Care Committee is undertaking an **inquiry into the availability of bariatric services.**

The aim of the inquiry is to review the current provision of bariatric services – particularly surgery – in Wales and to identify areas where further action could be effective.

Key issues to be considered are:

- The effectiveness of specialist services at Level 3 and 4 of the Welsh Government's All Wales Obesity Pathway in tackling the rising numbers of overweight and obese people in Wales;
- The eligibility criteria of patients and the availability of obesity surgery and specialist weight management services across Wales;
- Progress made by Local Health Boards on the recommendations highlighted within the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee *Review of Bariatric Surgery Provision and Access Criteria in the Context of the All Wales Obesity Pathway* report;
- The effectiveness of specialist services, within Level 3 and 4 of the All Wales Obesity Pathway, in tackling the rising numbers of overweight and obese people in Wales; and how these services are measured and evaluated, including in terms of delivering value for money;

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E-bost / Email: HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk

- The levels of investment currently allocated to provide bariatric surgery in Wales; and,
- The availability of obesity surgery and specialist weight management services across Wales.

Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

The Committee welcomes evidence from both individuals and organisations. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief description of the role of your organisation.

Generally, we ask for submissions to be made in writing, because it is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee on our internet site so that it becomes part of the public record. However, we are also able to accept evidence in audio or video format. The Committee welcomes contributions in English or Welsh, and we ask organisations with Welsh Language policies / schemes to provide bilingual responses, where applicable, in line with their public information policies.

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission to HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can write to: Committee Clerk, Health and Social Care Committee, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by **Friday 24 January 2014**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

Submissions should:

- be no longer than five sides of A4;
- contain numbered paragraphs;
- (if submitted electronically) should preferably be Word documents, not pdf files; and
- should focus on the terms of reference outlined above.

For your information, the Committee has invited submissions from those on the attached distribution list. We would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the letter to any individuals or organisations that are not included on this list, but might like to contribute to the inquiry. A copy of this letter has been placed on the National Assembly's website with an open invitation to submit views. We will be holding two oral evidence sessions in February and March 2014.

Disclosure of Information

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees AM

Chair

Annex: Distribution list

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) Wales;
Association for the Study of Obesity (ASO);
Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD);
Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ALS);
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI);
Association of Upper Gastro-Intestinal Surgeons (AUGIS);
British Dietetic Association (BDA);
British Heart Foundation;
British Nutrition Foundation;
Diabetes UK;
Dietitians Working in Obesity Management (DOM UK) – a specialist group of BDA;
International Association for the Study of Obesity (IASO);
International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO);
Medical Research Council;
National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD);
National Heart Forum;
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE);
Royal College of Anaesthetists;
Royal College of General Practitioners;
Royal College of Nursing;
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists;
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health;
Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh;
Royal College of Physicians Glasgow
Royal College of Physicians London
Royal College of Psychiatrists;
Royal College of Surgeons;
Royal Pharmaceutical Society;
Society for Obesity and Bariatric Anaesthesia (SOBAUK);
Weight Loss Surgery Information;

Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care (WIHSC);
Welsh NHS Confederation

Community Health Councils

Board of Community Health Councils in Wales
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council
Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Council
Brecknock and Radnor Community Health Council
Cardiff & The Vale Community Health Council
Cwm Taf Community Health Council
Hywel Dda Community Health Council
Montgomery Community Health Council

Official Agencies

All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales
Care Council for Wales
Care Quality Commission
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Food Standards Agency
Health and Wellbeing Best Practice and Innovation Board
Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
Institute of Rural Health
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
NHS Shared Services Partnership
Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
Social Services Improvement Agency
Wales Audit Office
Welsh Health Advisory Committees
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee

Professional Bodies and Trade Associations

Academy of Royal Colleges in Wales
Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance
Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI)
Association of British Neurologists
Association of Clinical Biochemistry
Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland
Association of Directors of Social Services
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)
Bournemouth Diabetes & Endocrine Centre
British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons
British Association of Social Workers Cymru
British Association of Spinal Surgeons
British Association of Stroke Physicians (BASP)
British Association of Thyroid & Endocrine Surgeons
British Cardiovascular Intervention Society
British Cardiovascular Society
British Medical Association (BMA) Wales
British Orthopaedic Association
British Orthopaedic Specialists Association
British Society of Gastroenterology
British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine
British Thoracic Society
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
College of Occupational Therapists
College of Optometrists
Community Pharmacy Wales
General Chiropractic Council
General Medical Council
General Optical Council
General Osteopathic Council
General Pharmaceutical Council
Health and Care Professions Council
Heart Rhythm UK

Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association
Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
Royal College of General Practitioners Clinical Innovation and Research
Centre
Royal College of Ophthalmologists
Society for Research in Rehabilitation
Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons in Great Britain & Ireland
Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists
The British Pain Society
Unison
Unite
Vascular Society
Welsh Association for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy (WAGE)
Welsh Intensive Care Society

Third Sector

All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers
Association of Medical Research Charities
Bevan Foundation
British Cardiac Patients Association
British Red Cross
Carers Trust
Carers Wales
Genetic Alliance UK
Heart Research UK
Patients Association
Social Care Institute for Excellence
The Princess Royal Trust for Carers [In wales c/o Crossroads Care]
Wales Carers Alliance
Wales Carers Workers Network

Academia

Academy of Medical Sciences
Bangor University School of Medical Sciences
Bangor University School of Social Sciences

Cambridge University Health Partners
Cardiff University
Cardiff University School of Medicine
Cedar NHS Evaluation Centre
Centre for Social Carework Research
ESRC Centre for the Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics
Health Communication Research Centre
Imperial College AHSC
Institute of Medical and Social Care Research
King's Health Partners
Manchester AHSC
National Institute for Health Research Horizon Scanning Centre (NHSC)
Older People & Ageing Research and Development Network (OPAN Cymru)
Swansea University Centre for Innovative Ageing
Swansea University College of Medicine
Swansea University Public Health and Policy Studies
The Wales Gene Park
UCL Partners
UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) – Sharmila Nebhrajani
University of South Wales – Health Economics & Policy Research Unit (HEPRU)
Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care (WIHSC)

Local Health Boards and Trusts

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
Cwm Taf Health Board
Hywel Dda Health Board
Powys Teaching Health Board
Public Health Wales NHS Trust
Velindre NHS Trust
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust