

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/ Our ref: MA-P VG/0025/17

Nick Ramsay AM  
Chair  
Public Accounts Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

9 January 2017

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December, in follow up to the joint update you received from Dr Andrew Goodall and Dr Kate Chamberlain regarding progress achieved against the *Marks Review* recommendations.

As you identified, the response to seven of the recommendations highlighted that the issues, including any future legislation, are being explored following on from the 'Our Health, Our Health Service' Green Paper.

You will recall that the Green Paper consultation was held last year to explore potential areas for future legislation in support of quality improvement, effective integration, partnership and better governance within the health service in Wales. Chapter six of the Green Paper examined whether we have the right arrangements in place for the effective regulation and inspection of health services by Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW). In line with those recommendations made as part of the *Marks Review*, it asked how legislation could be utilised to improve the operational capacity for HIW, its independence, and collaboration between HIW and Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).

Further to the consultation, the previous Minister for Health and Social Services published both a summary of responses, as well as the responses in their entirety (apart from those who indicated they wanted their response to remain confidential). Since the summary report, we have also seen the publication of the OECD review of Health Care Quality in the UK, which suggests a number of actions which intersect with the areas consulted upon in the Green Paper, including how to effectively capture the patient voice on NHS matters.

At the time of the consultation it was made clear that it would be for the new Government to decide on any action following the Green Paper. We are now working to complete the review of the functions of HIW and CSSIW and my officials are currently undertaking an

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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.

appraisal to assess whether legislation is necessary to drive forward quality improvement and integration. However, we are clear that legislation should be regarded as the final resort in terms of effecting change and so, for each of the areas above officials are also looking at what action can be taken in the short/ medium term within existing legislative frameworks. My officials are considering all of the reviews preceding and following the Green Paper, alongside the consultation responses, as well as holding discussions with the Inspectorates to ensure the options are fully informed.

I anticipate my officials will provide me with an outcome of this appraisal in the New Year and thus it would be premature for me to confirm whether this will encompass legislation. I will endeavour to keep the committee appropriately informed of progress in this area and subsequent impact on those specific recommendations highlighted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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