

Vaughan Gething AM
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

15 February 2018

Dear Vaughan

Outcome of GMS Systems Framework Contract Procurement

Following the outcome of the recent GMS Systems Framework procurement for the future provision of GP clinical systems, the Committee has been contacted by several GPs voicing concern over the intention to award the contract to the two chosen suppliers – Vision Health Ltd and Microtest Ltd.

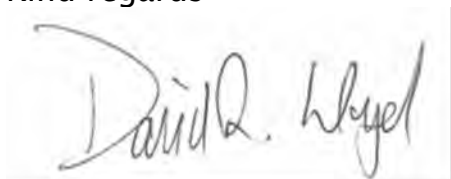
Concerns have been raised in correspondence to the Committee regarding the impact the change in suppliers could potentially have on GP practices, and with practices' involvement in the procurement process. The Committee notes from the 'Frequently Asked Questions' document accompanying the outcome letter issued on 29 January that GPC Wales and Health Board representatives are working with NWIS and the Welsh Government to identify ways to support practices through the system change, including financial support.

Further to the responses you provided to questions asked by Members in the Chamber, now that the deadline for making a legal challenge against the outcome has passed, I would be grateful if you could provide an urgent update as to what support will be provided to GP practices, particularly those who have already invested in the Emis system. Furthermore, given the level of concern raised by GPs, the Committee also requests that consideration be given to extending the May 2018 deadline by which practices will be required to make a choice as to which of the two systems they wish to transfer.



I look forward to receiving your response at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Lloyd", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dr Dai Lloyd AM

Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA - P/VG/0984/18

Dr Dai Lloyd
Chair
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

15 March 2018

Dear Dai,

Thank you for your letter of 15 February regarding the recent procurement process for GP systems in Wales and the possible impact of a change in suppliers.

You will have seen that on 27 February I issued a letter out to all Members, setting out the process and the decisions made. I also attached the joint letter from NHS Wales Informatics System (NWIS), General Practitioners Council (GPC) Wales and the Information Management & Technology (IM&T) Programme Board; which sets out the reasons behind the decision and the failure of EMIS Health Ltd to meet tendering requirements.

I recognise the potential impact on practices which current use the EMIS Health Ltd system and have been clear that a process will determine what support is required to ensure a smooth migration. Road shows are taking place in April 2018 to provide information to practices, enabling them to make a decision around which system to use under the new framework contract; Vision or Microtest. Extending the deadline for practices to choose which system to switch to will impact the migration planning and the ability to provide support to all of those practices. Specific concerns from practices on which option to migrate to can be addressed during the road shows by NWIS.

This is a collaborative approach to defining the required support and practices from across Wales have been asked to be part of the Stakeholder Reference Group to set out what support is needed. I remain committed to ensuring that there is a smooth migration of affected practices.

It is planned that the first GP practices will migrate or upgrade to new systems in January 2019, with the final migration due to be completed by July 2020. Throughout this period, until a practice migrates, GP practices can be assured that existing systems and services will continue to be supported by current suppliers under the existing contract arrangements.

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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.

I hope this has provided reassurance that we are committed to ensuring GPs have the systems they need to deliver services and will provide the support required during this transition phase.

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

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services