11 January 2016

Proposals to amend the Non-Executive Director eligibility criteria on the Public Health Wales NHS Trust Board

Dear Mr Barry,

I am writing on behalf of BMA Cymru Wales in response to the above consultation which is being conducted by the Welsh Government. We are grateful for being given an opportunity to comment on these proposals.

Whilst we will not be providing a comprehensive response to this consultation, and will not therefore be offering a view in relation to all the questions that have been posed, we would nonetheless like to make a couple of points for the Welsh Government’s consideration.

Our key concern with what has been put forward is the proposal to remove the requirement for the University-Non Executive Director role-holder to have a teaching or research specialism in public health. We feel this would send out the wrong message and give an impression, whether inadvertently or not, that the Welsh Government does not fully value public health. The proposal could also risk depriving the board of some genuine public health expertise – something we feel would be a retrograde step.

Our members also have some concerns about opening up posts to candidates from outside of Wales. We feel this would risk the possibility of having board members with insufficient knowledge and experience of Wales including of health, social care, environmental and educational matters. As a result, there could again be a risk of appointing board members who lack a degree of relevant knowledge or experience.

Prif weithredwr/Chief executive:
Keith Ward

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Listed as a Trade Union under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974.
We trust that these views will be taken into account and given appropriate consideration prior to any final decisions being taken.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rodney Berman
Senior Policy Executive