



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



7 February 2024

Dear colleagues,

As you will be aware, Welsh Government, NHS Wales and GPC Wales have been engaged in negotiations on arrangements for the GMS Contract 2023-24 since September 2023.

At the outset and throughout, there has been mutual recognition of the scale of change already underway in GMS, with the introduction of new regulations underpinning the Unified Contract on 1 October 2023, and the need to balance the pursuit of further change with a period of stability for the service whilst those changes fully embed.

Furthermore, this year's negotiations have been undertaken within extremely challenging Welsh and UK financial and operational contexts, with significant constraints on Government and NHS budgets and wider pressures across the health system.

The ongoing BMA Cymru Wales *Save Our Surgeries* campaign clearly outlines the longer-term challenges faced by general practice. GPC Wales has been clear on its position in relation to the financial offer available this year and the need for a wider debate about the key asks of the campaign. As a tripartite group, we recognise that there is more work to do collectively in this space.

GMS continues to play an essential role in caring for the people of Wales, providing a central, front-line service in our communities. The sustainability and resilience of primary and community care is vital for patients, and key to the broader transformation we want to see in the health system.

Despite the lack of consensus between tripartite partners, it is with all things considered that we have mutually decided to conclude negotiations for this year.

The conclusion to negotiations will result in £20million investment into GMS for 2023-24, inclusive of a 5% uplift to pay for all staff working in general practice. Further detail can be found at Annex A.

Whilst acknowledging that the offer will not wholly address the budgetary challenges faced by practices, the Minister has been clear this is the maximum available financial offer in the current environment. This pragmatic outcome, which sees investment into general practice, will avoid further delays and uncertainty for practices and their staff.

We will work together to take forward shared priorities including updating guidance notes for 2024/25, increasing use of the NHS App, updating supplementary services specifications, and clarifying Quality Improvement projects and Protected Learning Time (PLT) arrangements.

General practice continues to face pressures which we will need to address. Moving forwards, we are committed to finding solutions that ensure that the service, and the workforce who deliver it, are sustainable and fit for the future.

Following the announcement by the Minister for Health and Social Services on 7 February, the Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2013 are being amended to reflect the outcome reached.

Should you have any further queries on the guidance or changes then please contact your Health Board.

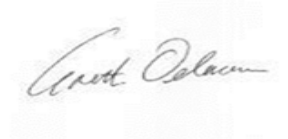
Yours sincerely,



Paul Casey
Deputy Director
Welsh Government



Nicola Prygodzicz
Chief Executive
Aneurin Bevan HB



Gareth Oelmann
Chair
GPC Wales

Annex A – GMS Contract Arrangements 2023-24

Contract Element	£m
GP Pay Uplift to 38.6%	8.7
Staff uplift to staff portion of 39.3% (Being 64.1% of the remaining 61.4%)	8.9
Total Pay Uplifts (NB: Rounding)	17.6
Other Expenses	2.4
OVERALL TOTAL	20