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–
Health and Social Care Committee

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Alex Howells
Chief Executive
Health Education and Improvement Wales

17 May 2023

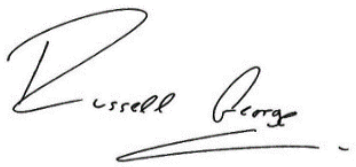
Dear Alex

Inquiry into gynaecological cancers

The Health and Social Care Committee is looking at the experiences of women with symptoms of gynaecological cancer, how they are listened to and treated by healthcare professionals, and how services empower, care for and look after women diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer to ensure their physical, psychological and practical needs are met.

During oral evidence on 27 April 2023 a number of issues were raised in relation to the workforce, and it would assist our inquiry if you were able to provide us with the information in the attached annex. To help inform future evidence sessions, we would be grateful to receive your response by Monday 12 June 2023.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Annex: Inquiry into gynaecological cancers

During our evidence session on 27 April 2023 as part of our inquiry into gynaecological cancers, a number of issues relating to the workforce were raised. We would welcome further information on the matters listed below. We would be grateful to receive your response by Monday 12 June 2023.

1. The Wales Cancer Improvement Plan says "workforce planning needs to be better, including a greater understanding of the future workforce needs". Could you provide an update on the cancer workforce plan and specifically details of workforce planning in relation to the gynaecological cancer workforce.

2. Data on the number of gynaecological cancer specialist nurses working in NHS Wales. We were also told that there is no supported educational pathways to allow qualified band 5 nurses to develop into cancer specialist nurses. Could you confirm whether that is the case.

3. Data on the number of consultant gynaecological oncologist posts, the number of vacant posts, and relevant number of consultant training posts by health board in Wales.

4. We were told that many clinical nurse specialists are fast approaching retirement age. Has HEIW done any projections on the number of clinical nurse specialists who are likely to retire in the next 5-8 years and who will replace them/ their expertise.

5. What access to training there is for new and experienced nurses to become cancer nurse specialists.