

# BMA Cymru Wales comments on correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language to Chair of the Senedd Petitions Committee re. [Petition P-06-1400 Fair and Adequate Resourcing of General Practice in Wales](#)

## Introduction

The BMA is a professional association and trade union representing and negotiating on behalf of all doctors and medical students in the UK. It is a leading voice advocating for outstanding health care and a healthy population. It is an association providing members with excellent individual services and support throughout their lives.

## Comments

We are grateful for the correspondence between the Chair of the Petitions Committee and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language on the issues raised by the petition.

We recognise that since both letters were issued by the Welsh Government, GPC Wales, Welsh Government and NHS Wales concluded contract negotiations for General Medical Services (GMS) for the year 2024/25.

In addition to this, we also note the agreement of Welsh Government's Final Budget for the year 2025/26. While we recognise and welcome the additional £100m for public services, it remains unclear how much of this funding will be directed towards sustaining general practice. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care remarked that "redressing the imbalance of funding between secondary and primary care will be a priority for future funding decisions". Without further commitment to addressing the funding and resourcing within Welsh general practice, we fear many practices will continue to struggle and be at risk of closure, impacting patient care and exacerbating pressures on the wider health service. We would welcome indication toward this commitment to reassure GPs, their staff and patients across Wales now the upcoming year's budget is agreed.

In light of the above, we would urge Welsh Government to:

- **Clarify how general practice will directly benefit from the final budget allocations** – while broader investment in the health service is welcomed, there must be transparency on how much of this will arrive at the frontline for GMS.



- **Ensure that additional funding translates into tangible support for practices** – providing enough that GPs have the resources needed to deliver high-quality care
- **Commit to a long-term strategy for sustainability within general practice in Wales – Short-term fixes will not resolve the deep-rooted issues facing general practice.** A sustainable funding model is essential to keep patients out of hospital and ensure equitable access to care closer to home for the people of Wales

In addition to the above, we would like to draw the Committee's attention to the lack of commitment in the Budget to addressing the concerns around significant unavoidable costs that will be incurred by practices from April 2025 (including increased **National Insurance Employer Contributions**, on which we have previously written to the [Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care on 8 November 2024](#)).

BMA Cymru Wales remains committed to working constructively with the Welsh Government to secure the necessary investment in general practice. We continue our calls for resource restoration to sustain GPs and their practices across Wales to provide vital care within our communities.