

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Health and Social Care Committee**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Jocelyn Davies AM
Chair of the Finance Committee

2 April 2015

Dear Jocelyn,

Further to my letter of 10 December 2014, I am writing to provide an update on work undertaken by the Health and Social Care Committee in relation to health service reform following the recommendation made by your Committee in its report on the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2015–16.

I wrote to the Minister for Health and Social Services on 10 December 2014 to seek clarification about whether the additional funding for 2014–15 and 2015–16 would be used to maintain current service levels and address anticipated deficits in health board and trust finances, or to implement new and more innovative models of service delivery.

In his response of 3 February 2015 (copy enclosed), the Minister states that:

“the additional funds announced in the draft budget will be used, alongside the totality of the healthcare budget to continue to deliver the high quality and safe services our patients expect while at the same time ensuring the whole budget is used in a way which contributes to reshaping and reforming the way we deliver our health services to ensure we are on a more sustainable footing.”

The Minister notes that health boards and trusts are expected to outline the reforms and changes that they are intending to make in their three-year

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

integrated plans. He states that these plans must clearly demonstrate how the reforms will contribute to meeting policy objectives and ensure the delivery of sustainable services in order to receive Welsh Government approval. Refreshed guidance to this effect was issued on 31 October 2014,

In [written evidence](#) provided to inform the Committee's general and financial scrutiny of the Minister and the Deputy Minister for Health on [19 March 2015](#), the Minister indicated that the draft three-year integrated plans for 2015-16 to 2017-18 were submitted on 30 January. The plans are currently undergoing an assessment and challenge process, and the Minister noted that he intends to make an announcement on the approved plans and the next steps by the end of April 2015.

The Committee will be holding a further general and financial scrutiny session with the Minister and Deputy Minister on 17 June 2015, which will focus primarily on financial scrutiny. The Ministers' evidence paper and transcript of that session may provide further details in this area, and you may wish to draw them to your Committee's attention in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees AM
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Enclosures: Correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services,
3 February 2015