

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair, Public Accounts Committee

12 February 2019

Dear Nick

Expenditure on agency staff by NHS Wales

Thank you for your letter of 7 February, regarding the report by the Auditor General for Wales on NHS expenditure on agency staff.

As you are aware, when the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee discussed its forward work programme on 9 January, Members agreed a programme to scrutinise all LHBs and Trusts over the next 12 months. As part of this, we will be scrutinising how they are responding to immediate needs and financial pressures while adapting to deliver the future care models outlined in 'A Healthier Wales', which, no doubt, will highlight how reliant some of them are on agency staff.

We also held an evidence session with Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and Social Care Wales on 23 January. They have been tasked by the Welsh Government to work together to produce a workforce strategy by the end of 2019. The Committee intends to follow up with them in the Autumn on how they are working to address workforce issues across the system, including reliance on agency staff, as well as how they are helping to improve workforce planning.

Aside from this work, we have no immediate plans to look at NHS expenditure on agency staff but we do regularly review our work programme priorities so I have asked the Clerk to include it on our rolling programme for consideration at a later date.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Dai Lloyd AM
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

