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Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Welsh Government
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Cardiff Bay
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Thursday, 22nd August 2024

Dear Mark,

This letter follows your brief conversation with Gareth Howells at the National Eisteddfod at Pontypridd on Friday, 9th August. We are writing from HCSA, the hospital doctors' union, on the subject of medical pay for all hospital doctors in Wales. HCSA is affiliated to TUC Cymru and we are also party to the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment. We look forward to working with you in partnership to promote the interests of NHS employees and service users in Wales.

On pay, HCSA welcomes the recommendations of the DDRB this year to uplift Consultant and SAS pay by 6% and junior doctor pay by 6% plus a consolidated £1000. We appreciate the Welsh Government is likely to be awaiting news from the Treasury on funding arrangements.

We are writing to ask that you make a commitment to doctors and dentists in Wales that the award will be implemented in full and rapidly. This award pertains to April of this year and any further delay threatens staff morale. Pay is a key aspect in shoring up retention and recruiting to the medical profession.

Furthermore, we would like to request a meeting with you and your team. As experts in secondary care, we have a specialism in key areas such as service delivery and whistleblowing. We watch with interest the implementation of the NHS Wales speaking up safely framework and would be interested to understand how it is progressing.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "P.M.W. Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Dr Paul Donaldson
HCSA General Secretary

Gareth Howells

Gareth Howells
National Officer / Swyddog Cenedlaethol
Wales / Cymru