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Professor Paul Curran
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Dear Paul

REVIEW BODY ON DOCTORS' AND DENTISTS' REMUNERATION – 2015/16 REMIT

I am writing to confirm the Welsh Government's approach in respect of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDR'B's) remit for 2015/16.

Following on from my announcement in March, and subsequently in July, of a pay deal in respect of employed medical and dental staff based on the same quantum as England, the DDR'B is not required to report on or make recommendations for the year 2015/16 on:

- the remuneration of employed doctors and dentists
- the recruitment, retention and motivation of staff
- regional / local variations in labour markets and their effects on recruitment and retention of staff.

For the two contractor groups, General Medical Practitioners (GMPs) and General Dental Practitioners (GDPs), the DDR'B is invited to make recommendations on appropriate uplifts for 2015/16. We would also welcome, in particular, DDR'B's recommendations on what allowances should be made for GPs' and GDPs' pay and for practice staff pay, in the context of public sector pay policy for 2015/16. The Welsh Government will make the final decisions on the gross uplift for GMS and dental contracts in the light of DDR'B's recommendations.

The Welsh Government will shortly be commencing discussions with General Practitioners Committee (Wales) on potential changes to the GMS contract for 2015/16. Although it is possible these discussions could result in an agreed approach, we are proceeding on the basis that DDR'B will make recommendations for GMPs. If that position changes as a result of negotiations we will let you know as soon as possible.

While I value the integrity and role of the pay review bodies, the scale of the financial challenge facing the Welsh NHS remains. It is for this reason I have taken the decision to limit the monies available to fund a pay award for employed medical and dental staff during 2015/16.

Best wishes

Mark Drakeford.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services