

15 November 2023

Dear

### **ATISN 19197 – mpMRI Scanners**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 23 October 2023. You requested the following:

- 1. How many open mpMRI scanners are in Wales for diagnostic for prostate cancer to PROMIS standard?*
- 2. How many GPs are planning to go private in the next five years?*
- 3. Are the health board intending to get more NHS dentist to replace the dentist that have gone private?*
- 4. How are national insurance payments allocated?*

### **Our Response**

1. Welsh Government does not hold this information. You may wish to contact individual health boards for more information. I have added a link below that provides contact points for each health board: [Contact Us - NHS Wales](#)
2. Welsh Government does not hold information on the number of GPs planning to go private. GPs are independent contractors who hold General Medical Services contracts with Health Boards. If a practice wished to hand back their contract, they would notify their health board. Contact points for each health board can be found by using the above link.
3. We want to reach a position where everyone in Wales who wants access to NHS dental care can get it. We are working with Health Boards, which have the budgets and responsibility for the provision of NHS dental services, to address gaps in service provision through their operational plans.

It is always disappointing when a dentist decides to reduce or end their NHS commitment. It is important to highlight that when this happens the funding for the lost provision remains with the Health Board in order for it to replace the level of NHS dental services.

There seems to be a narrative circulating that dental practices are terminating their NHS contracts and moving to an exclusive private service only, converting those patients that can afford it onto private dental plans. There are some examples of this happening, but the scale does not equate to the amount of noise. At the start of April 2022 there were 413 dental contracts in place across Wales; 26 of those contracts have been terminated for a range of reasons such as retirement, practice sale and practices choosing to move to private only provision. In the majority of cases where contracts have been varied or terminated, Health Boards have already or are in the process of recommissioning replacement services. This shows that there is a genuine

appetite for taking on NHS contracts. Of course, this does take time and there is inevitably a gap in provision while the procurement process takes place.

4. National insurance payments are collected by HM Revenue Customs (HMRC) and then paid to the National Insurance Fund by HMRC. A percentage of contributions go to fund the NHS across the UK and therefore a population-based share is paid to the Welsh Consolidated Fund by HMRC direct to support the funding of the NHS in Wales. Contributions are also allocated to fund the NHS in England, Scotland & Northern Ireland on the same basis.

The amount of National Insurance contributions received annually by the Welsh Consolidated Fund is recorded in the accounts of the fund. The latest published accounts can be found here: [gen-ld15686-e.pdf \(senedd.wales\)](#)

We do not hold information on the allocation of national insurance payments outside those paid over to Wales to contribute to the funding of the NHS.

National Insurance Payments are collected by (HMRC), who also manage the National Insurance Fund. As such you may wish to contact them for any further information. You can contact them using the following link:

[How to make a freedom of information \(FOI\) request: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,