

10 June 2021

First Minister of Wales
Welsh Government
5th Floor
T Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Subject: Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) 2016 Act

Dear First Minister

As a group of organisations invested in securing the best outcome and experiences for patients in Wales, we ask that, in the next parliamentary term, your Government commits to:-

Ensuring that Health Boards and Trusts in Wales deliver sufficient nurse staffing levels as defined under the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) 2016 Act.

Securing the extension of Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 to cover community nursing and mental health inpatient wards.

Ensuring the next Welsh Government continues the work of the current government in extending Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 to inpatient paediatric wards by October 2021.

Simply put, safe staffing saves lives.

Research has proven that poor nurse staffing levels increase mortality by up to 26% compared to better staffed wards.

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Safe staffing reduces readmissions, healthcare associated infection rates, medication errors, falls and pressure ulcers. It also relieves workforce pressure and allows the nursing workforce time to deliver compassionate sensitive care.

An investment in appropriate staffing makes sense both financially as well as in respect of ensuring patient care and improving the morale of the health and social care workforce. This underpins the foundation of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Legislation.


This Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 provides an opportunity for Wales to be at the forefront of patient care in the UK, and we urge organisations and individuals across the country to support the Act's implementation and development and, in doing so, improve patient care and reduce harm.

Full details of the Act and our joint aims are available from

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/wales/get-involved/safe-and-effective-care>

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Whyley', is written over a series of horizontal lines. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

**HELEN WHYLEY, RN, MA
DIRECTOR, RCN WALES**

Endorsed by:

Catherine Thornton,
Chief Officer, Conwy Connect

Claire Morgan,
Director, Carers Wales

Dr David Bailey,
Chair of British Medical Association Cymru Welsh Council, BMA Cymru.

Dr Katie Fergus,
Policy and Public Affairs Lead, Royal College of Psychiatrists Wales

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Dr Olwen Williams OBE,