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**23rd June 2021**

**An Open Letter to the new Welsh Government**

**NHS Staff need and deserve an urgent and significant pay rise**

Congratulations on being re-elected to form the new Government in Wales. We look forward to working together in partnership over the forthcoming years building on the positive progress that we made in partnership with the previous Government.

In the past year COVID-19 has taken a terrible toll on our society. Many have sadly lost their lives and no one has been untouched by the pandemic. Throughout Wales the NHS and its staff have been both vital and central to supporting the people of Wales. NHS staff have exhausted themselves physically and mentally in their efforts to tackle the virus and support patients in a system that was already underfunded and struggling.

It is therefore our belief that there has never been a time when the need for an urgent and significant pay rise for NHS staff has been so great. A belief shared by so many people across Wales.

With all the challenges that face NHS staff in the coming years an urgent and significant pay rise is vital to reward staff and stem the tide of those leaving the NHS.  Retaining and rewarding the skilled, dedicated and experienced NHS staff will have massive benefits on the health and wellbeing of Wales.

The staff side unions are asking Welsh Government to offer an urgent and significant pay rise to all NHS staff.  Currently the Pay Review Bodies’ (both Agenda for Change and Medical and Dental) recommendations are yet to be published but if these do not meet our definitions of urgent and significant we are requesting the Welsh Government exceed the recommendations of both the PRBs.  In addition to this we are asking that the 2021 pay award is backdated to 1st December 2020.

We look forward to an early meeting with Eluned Morgan, Minister for Health and Social Services to discuss the urgent and significant pay rise that NHS staff across Wales deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Summers,

Trade Union Chair, Welsh Partnership Forum



Richard Munn,

Trade Union Secretary, Welsh Partnership Forum