

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
REPORT BY THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
on
THE HEALTH BILL

1. The Bill had been remitted to the Committee by the Assembly in plenary on 21 June. It was considered in accordance with the protocol for dealing with primary legislation agreed by the committee on 11 June 2003, whereby Members notify in advance any queries or amendments they wish to make to the Bill.

2. The Committee did not propose any amendments to the Bill.

Points of Clarification

3. The following points of clarification had been notified:

i. Why does the Bill not include framework clauses where appropriate?

ii. Part 2, Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections refers only to England.

(a) Is the Minister satisfied that he has all the powers necessary to introduce similar measures in Wales?

(b) Does the Minister intend to introduce similar measures in Wales, and if so, when?

iii. Part 4 Chapter 2 Clause 35 – general ophthalmic services contracts – Can the Minister confirm that none of this clause applies to Wales?

iv. Will the Minister detail any proposed changes to the contracts of optometrists in Wales?

v. Will the Minister detail how this Bill might increase access to ophthalmic services and extend the range of people in Wales that could receive free eye tests?

vi. Part 4 Chapter 3 Protection of the NHS from Fraud and Other Unlawful Activities - Clause 41 (3).

(a) Why has the Welsh Assembly Government not thought it necessary to seek the additional “security management functions” set out here for the Secretary of State in England?

(b) Does the Minister have the power to make similar provisions for Wales if they are thought necessary?

4. The Committee also asked about the power of the Secretary of State in respect of Part 5 of the Bill, which relates to the establishment of the Appointments Commission. The Minister agreed to provide further information on this.

5. The Minister's responses to these points are contained in the [verbatim report of the meeting](#).

6. Apart from the query about the Appointments Commission, the Committee accepted the Minister's responses and was content with the Bill as drafted.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM
Chair
January 2006