

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

REPORT BY THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE On The NHS (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006

The Committee considered the above Regulations at its meeting on 5 April 2006. It was considered in accordance with the protocol for dealing with secondary legislation agreed by the Committee on 11 June 2003, whereby Members notify in advance any queries or amendments they wish to make to the Order.

Members did not propose any amendments.

The Minister responded to three points of clarification that had been raised:

Jenny Randerson AM:

i. Is the Assembly legally obliged to follow the same NHS travelling expenses scheme as that provided in England? The capital limits differ, but in other respects the design of the scheme appears to be the same.

Minister's response: The Assembly has some discretion, for example the capital limits, but the scheme has the same legal basis as and is generally the same as in England.

ii. Are patients from Wales travelling over the border to England paid according to the Welsh scheme?

Minister's response: Patients from Wales treated in England are paid under the Welsh scheme.

Helen Mary Jones AM:

iii. What action is undertaken to increase awareness of the entitlement to the payment of travel expenses and the remission of charges?

Minister's response: information on the scheme is included in leaflets on entitlement to benefits provided in places such as GP surgeries, outpatients' departments and public libraries.

The Committee was content with the regulations as drafted.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM
Chair