

2018/19 GLOBAL SUM INCREASE



Contractors who attended the most recent cycle of Contractor Events will be aware that CPW has been in discussions with Welsh Government since October 2018 regarding a potential increase in the global sum for 2018/19. CPW proposed uplift in line with pay increases to other primary care health professionals.

We met the Minister for Health & Social Services in November when he indicated that there was no prospect of an increase in the current year but, following additional representations, he later requested a submission supporting the CPW case based on increased contractor costs. He indicated that he would consider funding an increase through end of year adjustments but the scale of the increase would necessarily depend on the scope of any adjustments that could be made.

Welsh Government has indicated that the Minister is prepared to fund an increase of 1% of the global sum which is equal to £1.44m. He is proposing to distribute this additional funding by way of a single payment to each pharmacy of some £2000.

However, on the basis of the most recent dispensing and advanced service fees (December) there is likely to be a small overpayment of around £400k in 2018/19. There is also likely to be a pot of cash resulting from the under delivery of pharmacist IP and pharmacy technician training. Welsh Government is proposing to offset those two figures leaving a potential overpayment of £250k.

Welsh Government has suggested that the simplest approach is to leave practice payments alone and pay a smaller payment per pharmacy for the 1% increase in 2018/19. This would result in a payment of some £1600 instead of the £2000 referred to above. I know that this is far short of what CPW asked and hoped for and that contractors will be disappointed. In addition, Welsh Government has indicated that, at this stage, it cannot guarantee that the additional funding will be built into the base budget going forward.

CPW understands that the Minister is scheduled to make a statement to the Assembly in the near future in which he will confirm the additional funding and Welsh Government's on-going commitment to community pharmacy in Wales.

CPW is continuing to press the case for a significant increase in community pharmacy funding in 2019/20.

RUSSELL GOODWAY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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