

Mr Jim Harra  
Chief Executive and First Permanent Secretary, HMRC

Mr Dyfed Alsop  
Chief Executive, Welsh Revenue Authority

9 January 2020

### **Ministerial Direction – NHS pension arrangements for 2019/20**

Dear Chief Executives,

As you may be aware, on the 18 December 2019, the First Minister of Wales issued a Ministerial Direction to the Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Government – the first of its kind in Wales since devolution. The Direction related to changes to NHS pension arrangements for 2019/20. It follows a similar Direction issued by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to the Accounting Officer for NHS England to proceed with the NHS Pension Tax proposal 2019/20 on 22 November 2019.

The First Minister and the Permanent Secretary wrote to the Public Accounts, Finance and the Health, Social Care and Sport Committees advising us of the Direction and some of the context within which it had been issued. We received detailed advice from the Auditor General for Wales, dated 6 January 2020, setting out the nature and purpose of Ministerial Directions, which suggested handling by the National Assembly and potential lines of inquiry Assembly Committees may wish to pursue. For ease of reference details of all the correspondence can be found [here](#).

The Public Accounts Committee considered this correspondence at its meeting on 6 January 2020 and as a result will take further oral evidence on this matter from the Permanent Secretary on 3 February 2020.



Ahead of this meeting the Committee wishes to seek the views of HMRC/WRA on the Ministerial Direction and specifically the changes to NHS pension arrangements for 2019/20 in Wales. We also wish to establish whether the approach taken complies with tax requirements. Finally, can you confirm whether any consultation was undertaken with HMRC/WRA prior to these Ministerial Directions either by the UK Government, Welsh Government or both.

I have written to both of you given this matter falls within both of your areas of responsibility and kindly ask that you respond by the 31 January 2020 in order for us to consider your views ahead of our meeting with the Permanent Secretary.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Millar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Millar AM  
Chair (Temporary)

