

Jacqueline Totterdell
Director General for Health, Social Care and Early Years for the Welsh Government and Chief
Executive of NHS Wales
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff

17 November 2025

Dear Ms Totterdell,

Re: Chief Allied Health Professional Officer vacancy

Many congratulations on your recent appointment as Director General for Health, Social Care and Early Years for the Welsh Government and Chief Executive of NHS Wales

I am writing as Chair of the Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF) Cymru, which comprises 15 professional bodies representing Allied Health Professionals, to raise our significant concerns about the delay to the appointment of a new Chief Allied Health Professional Officer (CAHPO) for Wales. This key post has now been vacant for nearly six months since June 2025.

As I am sure you are aware, the CAHPO post plays a key role in ensuring the clinical voice of AHPs is heard strongly within government. As the recent report from the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) on NHS Wales Performance and Productivity made clear, 'strengthening and empowering clinical leadership at all levels nationally, regionally, and within health boards and trusts is crucial for addressing immediate performance and productivity challenges, as well as long-term clinical service transformation and sustainability'. AHPs are the third largest professional group in NHS Wales and we feel strongly that the long delays to the re-advertisement of the CAHPO post at a critical time pre-election sends out a very negative message to our workforce about the value of Allied Health Professions.

I look forward to hearing your urgent response.

Yours sincerely

Dr Caroline Walters

Chair

Allied Health Professions Federation Cymru