

Eluned Morgan

Minister for Health and Social Services

Welsh Government

5th Floor

Tŷ Hywel

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1NA

Dear Minister,

**RE: Potential meeting with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists in Wales**

I am writing as Head of the Wales Office for the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists in Wales. I appreciate the very heavy demands on your diary but would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you.

As I’m sure you are aware, Speech and language therapists support people with communication and swallowing needs throughout the life course from neonates to people at the end of life. We would be keen to discuss a number of areas including;

* how Wales is leading the way on raising awareness of the importance of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and ensuring that interventions are delivered universally at the point of need. An area which is crucial to reducing health inequalities.
* highly effective collaboration across the profession which has led to the development of All- Wales, evidence-based pathways for speech and language therapy in clinical conditions which are unique to Wales
* ensuring a bilingual, sustainable speech and language therapy workforce - our significant concerns about workforce planning including commissioning and the streamlining programme. Our membership data reveals that there are less SLTs per head of the population in Wales than any other part of the UK. We would be keen to discuss increasing commissioning numbers and innovative ideas to increase placement capacity.

Please see attached a short briefing as background to a potential conversation. Our External Affairs Manager, Dr Caroline Walters (caroline.walters@rcslt.org) would be pleased to liaise with your diary secretary if such a meeting would be possible

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



**Philippa Cotterill**

**Head of Wales Office**

cc: Ruth Crowder, Chief Allied Health Professions Adviser, Welsh Government