



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Dr Frank Atherton**  
**Prif Swyddog Meddygol/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru**  
**Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales**

Professor Ravi Mahajan,  
President  
Royal College of Anaesthetists

and

Dr Abrie Theron,  
Chair  
Royal College of Anaesthetists Wales Board

30 April 2021

Dear Professor Mahajan and Dr Theron,

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with you and members of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) to discuss areas of mutual interest and to hear about your Senedd Election manifesto.

I am very supportive of the work of the RCoA and value very highly the work of all anaesthetists, who make such a huge contribution to patient care here in Wales.

As with many of your colleagues in other specialities, anaesthetists have worked tirelessly during the pandemic. You have supported people with COVID in critical care units, and helped to preserve essential services for other patients. This has required persistence, flexibility and ingenuity and I would like to thank you all for everything you have done and are doing. The workload has no doubt taken its toll on colleagues; however, we are very fortunate to have such a committed workforce.

We look forward to continuing to work with you under the next Government in recovering from the pandemic, in supporting colleagues and in building back services better for the future.

Yours sincerely,

**DR FRANK ATHERTON**