

Professor Mansel Aylward CB MD FRCP FFOM FFPM

Professor Mansel Aylward is chair of the Wales Centre for Health, an Assembly Government Sponsored Body leading improvements in the nation's health by advocating on health issues, engaging with the public and communities, and speaking independently on health, free from corporate or economic interests. In October 2007 Professor Mansel Aylward in his capacity as Chair of the Wales Centre for Health was asked by Edwina Hart, Minister for Health and Social Services to undertake a review of Health Commission Wales' functions, including its decision-making processes and appeals mechanism. Under this arrangement, a report on key findings and advice (including the making of recommendations) was provided to the Minister in June 2008. Professor Mansel Aylward was also asked to advise the Minister on healthcare provision in Merthyr Tydfil and surrounding areas which was presented to the Minister in July 2008.

In 2006 he became Patron of The Shaw Trust which provides training and work opportunities for people disadvantaged in the labour market due to disability, ill health, or other social circumstances.

He is also Director of the Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research at Cardiff University. The Centre offers a unique opportunity to extend knowledge and understanding of the psychosocial, economic and cultural factors that influence health, illness, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into rewarding work.

From 1996 to April 2005 he was Chief Medical Adviser, Medical Director and Chief Scientist to the United Kingdom's Department for Work and Pensions. He was also Chief Medical Adviser and Head of Profession at the Veterans' Agency, Ministry of Defence. He was made a Companion of the Bath in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2002. In 2001 he was appointed as The Royal Society of Medicine's Academic Sub Dean for Wales. From 1974 to 1984 he was Chairman and Managing Director of Simbec Research Ltd, UK, and President of Simbec Inc, New Jersey USA.

He is a physician and specialist in rheumatology, rehabilitation, therapeutics and clinical pharmacology. He has played a key role in development of the UK's medical assessment for incapacity (the All Work Test), the Personal Capability Assessment and the "Pathways to Work" initiative for Vocational Rehabilitation. He also led the Corporate Medical Group on the UK Government's Welfare Reform framework.