

**Audit and Corporate Governance
Committee Update – Public Health
Wales NHS Trust**

Date issued: January 2024

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About this document

- 1 This document provides the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee with an update on our current and planned accounts and performance audit work at Public Health Wales NHS Trust. We presented our most recent Audit Plan to the committee in March 2023. We are currently preparing the 2024 Audit Plan.
- 2 We also provide additional information on:
 - Other relevant examinations and studies published by the Audit General.
 - Relevant corporate documents published by Audit Wales (e.g., fee schemes, annual plans, annual reports), as well as details of any consultations underway.
- 3 Details of future and past Good Practice Exchange (GPX) events are available on our [website](#).

Accounts audit update

4 Exhibit 1 summarises the status of our current and planned accounts audit work.

Exhibit 1 – Accounts audit work

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status	Planned date for consideration
Audit of the 2023-24 Accountability Report and Financial Statements	Huw George	Audit of the 2023-24 Accountability Report and Financial Statements	<p>Whilst initial planning meetings have been held with PHW officers our detailed audit work for 2023-24 has yet to commence.</p> <p>Audit Wales will shortly be writing to NHS Wales bodies to set out the anticipated timing of our audit work for this year, following which we will discuss and agree the timing of our 2023-24 work at PHW.</p>	TBC

Performance audit update

5 Exhibit 2 summarises the status of our current and planned performance audit work.

Exhibit 2 – Performance audit work

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status	Planned date for consideration
All-Wales thematic on workforce planning arrangements	Neil Lewis	The work examines the workforce risks that NHS bodies are experiencing currently and are likely to experience in the future. It looks at how local and national workforce planning activities are being taken forward to manage those risks and address short-, medium- and longer-term workforce needs.	Work complete	January 2024
Structured Assessment – core	Paul Veysey	<p>This work will review the following core areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board and committee cohesion and effectiveness; • Corporate systems of assurance; • Corporate planning arrangements; and • Corporate financial planning and management arrangements. <p>This work will also include a review of the arrangements that are in place to track progress against previous audit recommendations. This allows the audit team to obtain assurance that the necessary progress is being made in addressing areas for improvement identified in previous audit</p>	Work complete	January 2024

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status	Planned date for consideration
		work. It also enables us to more explicitly measure the impact our work is having.		
Review of the Trust's approach to setting its Well-being Objectives	Huw George Nathan Jones	This work will examine how well the Trust applied the sustainable development principle in its review of its Well-being Objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. We had intended to incorporate this work into our 2023 Structured Assessment work, but this work will now be delivered as a standalone review to enable a more detailed focus to be undertaken, and good practice identified where relevant.	Scoping	To be confirmed – awaiting confirmation of ACGC dates for 2024-25
Structured Assessment – Deep Dive	Huw George	We had previously indicated an intention to undertake deeper dive work to examine digital arrangements. However, given the significantly challenging financial position across NHS Wales, we are now looking at replacing the work on digital with focused work examining the approaches NHS bodies are taking in respect of achieving cost improvements, efficiencies, and financial sustainability.	Project brief issued	To be confirmed – awaiting confirmation of ACGC dates for 2024-25

Other relevant publications

- 6 **Exhibit 3** provides information on other relevant examinations and studies published by the Audit General in the last six months. The links to the reports on our website are provided. The reports highlighted in **bold** have been published since the last committee update.

Exhibit 3 – Relevant examinations and studies published by the Auditor General

Title	Publication Date
<u>Governance arrangements relating to an employment dispute at National Museum Wales</u>	November 2023
<u>NHS Workforce Data Briefing</u>	September 2023
<u>Approaches to achieving net zero across the UK</u>	September 2023
<u>NHS Wales Finances Data Tool</u>	September 2023

Additional information

- 7 **Exhibit 4** provides information on corporate documents published by Audit Wales since the last committee update. Links to the documents on our website are provided.

Exhibit 4 – Audit Wales corporate documents

Title	Publication Date
<u>Equality Report 2022-23</u>	November 2023
<u>Estimate of Income and Expenses for Audit Wales for the year ended 31 March 2025</u>	October 2023
<u>Interim Report 2023</u>	October 2023

There are no relevant Audit Wales consultations currently underway.



Audit Wales

1 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street
Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Tel: 029 2032 0500

Fax: 029 2032 0600

Textphone: 029 2032 0660

E-mail: info@audit.wales

Website: www.audit.wales

We welcome correspondence and
telephone calls in Welsh and English.
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