



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth Brifysgol GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwilans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
University NHS Trust

## AUDIT COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT REPORT TO BOARD

This report provides the Board with key escalation and discussion points at the last Committee meeting. A full list of items discussed appears at the end of the report to enable members to raise any questions to the Chair which have not been drawn out in the report.

The papers for this meeting can be found by following this [link](#) to the Committee page on the Trust website.

<b>Trust Board Meeting Date</b>	30 May 2024
<b>Committee Meeting Date</b>	30 April 2024
<b>Chair</b>	Peter Curran

### KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

#### ALERT

(Alert the Board to areas of attention)

1. The Committee reviewed interim **changes to the model Standing Orders** to reflect the Trust's change of name following approval of its university trust status, and the introduction of the Joint Commissioning Committee. The **Scheme of Reservation and Delegation (SoRD) was also revised** to provide more clarity on the approval of awards of contracts by the Board. This was following the escalation from the Committee's last meeting on the non-compliance with Standing Orders raised in the Vehicle Replacement Programme Internal Audit. The Committee also **approved Governance Practice Note No. 005** to provide further clarity to Directors on this issue. Changes to the Standing Orders and the SoRD are before the Board for approval at this meeting.
2. This meeting was primarily a **governance focused meeting** and therefore did not receive the usual standing items.

#### ADVISE

(Detail any areas of on-going monitoring, approvals, or new developments to be communicated)

3. A **pre-meet** was held with Audit Wales, Internal Audit and the Committee Chair ahead of the meeting.
4. Members **reflected** that the reports were succinct and recognised the collective effort of all members of the teams that supported the chairs in their review of the effectiveness of their committees. The hybrid nature of the meeting was not as effective for those in the room given the configuration of the IT, however an action was agreed to review instructions for their use in all meeting rooms. The meeting was well chaired.



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth Brifysgol GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
University NHS Trust

## ASSURE

(Detail here any areas of assurance the Committee has received)

5. The **2023/24 annual effectiveness review** was conducted for the Audit Committee. The National Audit Office tool was used for the survey questions and Members reviewed their effectiveness based on this, the work of the Committee during the year and discussions at today's meeting. Changes to the terms of reference will be proposed to the Board at its May meeting.
6. The Committee reviewed the 2023/24 annual reports for the Academic Partnerships Committee, Charity Committee, Finance and Performance Committee, People and Culture Committee, Quality Patient Experience and Safety Committee, Remuneration Committee, and Welsh Ambulance Partnership Team (WASPT). This is in line with the Committee's duty to advise and assure the Board on whether effective arrangements are in place to support them in their decision taking. Members were assured that effective arrangements are in place across all Committees and WASPT and represented the maturity of our corporate governance arrangements. A revised and streamlined approach to surveys for the 2024/25 reviews was agreed and all **annual reports and changes to terms of reference were endorsed for approval by the Board and the Committee**. The Board has before it at its 30 May meeting a separate paper with the results of these reviews.
7. The Board is required to confirm adherence with **corporate governance code for central government departments 2017** in the annual governance statement. The Committee reviewed the self-assessment against the code and were assured that the Trust complies with all elements.
8. Progress against the **2023/24 Internal Audit Plan** was received. There are five remaining audits for the 2023/24 audit plan which will be completed in time for the June meeting. The following **Internal Audits** reviews were completed during the quarter and presented to the Committee:
  - Seatbelt Action Plan – reasonable assurance. The purpose of this audit was to review the deployment of the seatbelt action plan, to ensure the safety of crews and patients on board Trust vehicles, and to assess compliance. The Quality, Patient Experience and Safety Committee will review this in more detail in May as will the People and Culture Committee given that this spans patient safety and health and safety.
  - ICT Contract Management – reasonable assurance. The purpose of this audit was to assess whether the Trust has appropriate contract management arrangements in place, ensuring achievement of value for money. The Finance and Performance Committee reviewed this audit at its March meeting.
9. The **2023 Audit Wales Annual Report for WAST** was received and is at Annex 1 for the Board's review. The report summarised the findings from the 2023 audit work which includes the audit of the 2022/23 accounts, 2023 structured assessment, national workforce review and the Trust's workforce planning arrangements. These reports have been reviewed by this Committee and the Board.

The audit fee proposed for this work in 2023 was £188,424 and latest estimated by Audit Wales confirm the fee is in keeping with this. The **audit fee for the 2024/25** year was noted at £200,483. This is in line with the Fee Scheme as approved by the Senedd Finance Committee and represents a 6.4% increase.



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth Brifysgol GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwilans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
University NHS Trust

The **2024 Audit Plan** was also received and is at Annex 2 for Board endorsement. Work includes the audit of the 2023/24 accounts, completing the national deep dive into financial efficiencies and a follow up of the Review of Quality Governance Arrangements which will begin in May 2024. A deep dive review will also start in Spring 2024 on investment in digital systems to support service resilience and transformation.

The **Review of Unscheduled Care** Part Two (accessing urgent and emergency care) has commenced and WAST will be formally engaged in this part of the overall review. The review encompasses Part One (flow out of hospital) which has been completed and is currently in clearance with the Regional Partnership Boards, and Part Three (national arrangements and leadership structures) which will begin over the coming months.

- 10. The Committee received the **register of members interests** as of 30 March 2024 and noted the next stage is for the interests of a cohort of decision makers in the Trust (in excess of 200 pax) to be centrally held and published during 2024. The **register of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship** was also received and is published on the Trust website.
- 11. The **Committee’s cycle of business** was approved.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

This was a governance focused meeting therefore risk report was not cycled.

**COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING**

Internal audit update and related audits	Audit Wales progress report, annual report and annual audit plan	Audit Committee effectiveness review and annual board and committee effectiveness reviews 2023/24
Self-assessment against the Corporate Governance Code 2017	Changes to Model Standing Orders and Scheme of Reservation and Delegation	Committee cycle of business 2024/25
Register of members interests and register of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship		

**COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE**

Name	30 April 2024	7 June 2024	10 July 2024	12 Sep 2024	21 Nov 2024	6 Mar 2024
Peter Curran						
Kevin Davies						
Joga Singh						
Ceri Jackson						
Chris Turley						
Angie Lewis						
Liam Williams						
Judith Bryce						
Trish Mills						
Julie Boalch						
Osian Lloyd						



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth Brifysgol GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
University NHS Trust

### COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Name	30 April 2024	7 June 2024	10 July 2024	12 Sep 2024	21 Nov 2024	6 Mar 2024
Carl Window						
Audit Wales	Fflur Jones <sup>1</sup>					
Damon Turner						
Christian Fox						

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member

---

<sup>1</sup> Darren Griffiths and Amy Lord also attended