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CYMRU  
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WALES

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

Cadeirydd  
Chair: Colin Dennis

Prif Weithredwr  
Chief Executive: Jason Killens

## Swyddfa Cyllid ac Adnoddau Corfforaethol

### Finance and Corporate Resource Office

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Mrs A Hughes  
Head of NHS Financial Management  
Welsh Government  
North Wales NHS Financial Management  
Sarn Mynach  
Llandudno Junction  
LL31 9RZ

11<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Your ref:

Dear Andrea,

**Re: AUGUST 2025 (MONTH 05 2025/26) MONITORING RETURN**

Please find attached the Monitoring Returns for the Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust for August 2025.

All automatic validation rules incorporated in the reporting template have been successfully passed.

In line with our submitted IMTP, our opening budgets and financial plan for the year reflected the level of assumed funding, expenditure plans and savings requirement included and submitted and supported by our Commissioners and approved by the Trust Board in March 2025.

The Trust's performance against financial targets for month 05 2025/26 is as follows: -

#### 1. Actual Year to Date 2025/26 (Tables A, B & B2)

Income assumptions reflect those agreed within the IMTP and are used to support cost pressures identified in the Trust's detailed budget setting. The key funding assumptions at the outset of 2025/26 being that the 2024/25 funding is, where applicable, fully recurrent, and the 2025/26 funding will include: -

- The nationally made available 1.77% uplift for core cost growth, which excludes any funding to meet the 2025/26 pay award costs, (which will be subject to a future additional funding allocation);
- Impact of previously agreed developments/other adjustments including income support, in line with support by Commissioners in previous and current IMTPs, along with funding for other nationally delivered projects.

Included within the income assumptions is the full pass through of 2024/25 pay funding and an assumed level of funding for Employers National Insurance contribution increase for 2025/26 funding (see below); the 2024/25 pay funding wasn't included in the month 5 payment from JCC however this was paid in the September payment.

Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg, ac na fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi

The Trust welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English, and that corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay

[www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk)

Pencadlys Rhanbarthol  
Ambiwylans a Chanolfan  
Cyfathrebu Clinigol

Regional Ambulance  
Headquarters and  
Clinical Contact Centre

Beacon House  
William Brown Close  
Llantarnam  
Cwmbran NP44 3AB  
Ffôn/Tel  
01633 626262

The resulting reported performance at month 5 as per Table B, is a overspend against budget / deficit of **£0.229m**

The reported total pay variance against plan as at month 5 is an underspend of **£0.674m**, set against the budgets.

The non-pay position at month 5 is a reported overspend of **£0.688m**.

Income at month 5 shows an underachievement of **£0.215m**.

Whilst any adverse movement in the financial position is not welcomed, the month 5 surplus of £17k does represent an improvement from that originally forecasted at month 4. This does give some positive signs for future months and the Trust's ability to further improve the month on month position and potentially recover it before the year end. **(Action Point 4.3)**

This has in part been achieved through the delay in the timing of some elements of additional unavoidable costs commencing, some further improvements in variable pay spends, reduced sickness absence rates and the start of some impact of reduced handover delays (albeit mostly efficiency gains rather than cost reduction). The Trust's Executive Finance Group (EFG) met again on 27th August to further explore what other choices and options are available to further delay or reduce spend through the next few months, again with a view of at the very least returning to a position of in month balance as soon as possible. Beyond this, recovering the YTD position by March 2026 will then be the next key priority and further updates on the ability to do so will be provided over the next couple of months.

Given some of the above, we have again at this stage not reflected any change to our year end forecast, which remains at breakeven and one we will continue to do all that we possibly can to achieve. This is also in part to seek to ensure some consistency across NHS Wales in terms of how some of the external pressures continue to be treated, the WRP updated forecast in particular, plus noting the ongoing work requested of NWSSP in relation to this and to further understand the actual level of risk share that will eventually be incurred in relation to this in 2025/26.

## **2. Movement (Table A)**

The Movement table has been completed in accordance with the new guidance, incorporating the submitted Annual Plan (AOP) data.

As noted in the reply letter the Trust has amended the "Planned Mitigations still to be finalised" the amount should have been stated on the "Unplanned additional required Mitigations" however this has now been eliminated in month. **(Action Point 4.1)**

Following the ongoing work mentioned above the Trust has been able to further reduce the "Unplanned additional required Mitigations" to £0.400m and will continue over the coming months to reduce this further. **(Action Point 4.2)**

## **3. Underlying Position (Table A1)**

Table A1 has been adjusted to agree with Table A

## **4. Risk (Table A2)**

The Risk have again been reviewed in detail and depending on the outcome of some of the issues highlighted elsewhere in this return, we may continue to move towards higher risks, as noted above, having to be reported, alongside ensuring that the Trust Board and the Finance & Performance Committee remain fully apprised of such risks and any mitigating actions.

However, there are a number of risks that need to be documented within this reported financial position, which aligns to that fully described within the financial plan submitted as part of the IMTP.

It continues however that the risk of not achieving financial balance this financial year has significantly increased since the outset of the financial year. Whilst there continue to be further elements of mitigation that we can reasonably expect to be delivered between now and the end of the financial year, and we continue to explore any and all opportunities for more in this regard, it would not be reasonable at this stage to expect all of this to be able to be absorbed, and certainly not without some potential service impacts. This does all mean that we will then

further have to deliver a reduce spend and manage existing plans to ensure that the Trust can continue to forecast a year end break even. Currently it would have to be stated that there is a high risk of this not being achievable, however positively the Trust has in month, based on the work detailed above reduce this risk down to £0.400m from the previously reported £1.000m **(Action Point 4.4)**

A low risk has been included around any JCC additional, in year, saving request, this is currently low at present however this is on the basis that the Trust has had no direct contact from the JCC on any further ask. However in light of the comment contained in the month 1 reply letter, the Trust acknowledges this could be an increased risk should such an in-year request be made. However, it remains that our current breakeven forecast assumes the current level of core funding and savings (which are significant and challenging as they stand), supported as such by the JCC in our IMTP and financial plan, and in part is following the Trust receiving no additional funding for the Band 4 to 5 technician grade re-banding.

Given the pressures the Trust feels every winter, the Trust has included a figure of £1.000m to cover any unfunded winter pressures; this has been deemed as a low risk, based on support provided from Commissioners over recent years.

As noted last month the risk related to the costs associated with the Manchester Arena Inquiry, and subsequent recommendations, both Capital and Revenue costs have been identified and if this recommendation is to be taken forward additional funding would be required in order to deliver. As previously noted within the returns, whilst this is less of a financial risk as only if funding was made available would the costs transpire, however the risks to the services are much more than financial.

Full consideration and management of all these risks will clearly be high on the agenda for the Trust Board and its relevant Committees, including Finance and Quality Committees. Alongside this, the risk of non-delivery of statutory financial duties has also been increased, alongside a more detailed review of this risk on the Trust's Corporate Risk Register.

Also in the opportunity table, is the possible VAT rebate for the Microsoft licences following the guidance around this, it is noted that further work is needed, however the opportunity remains in the table until we are advised that this is not an opportunity in 2025-26.

## **5. Monthly Profiles (Table B)**

This table has now been completed in full, and in accordance with the guidance.

The AME depreciation charges have been reprofiled to reflect the likely future profiling **(Action Point 4.5)**

Line 5 includes the income from WG however during month 4 elements of the JCC income along with other unphased income was included on this line as we are unable to amend previous periods income, this is then reflected in future profiling **(Action Point 4.6a & 4.6b)**

Table B and Table Q now align **(Action Point 4.7)**

## **6. Expenditure Movement (Table B2)**

Table B2 has been completed in accordance with the guidance.

## **7. Pay and Agency/Locum (premium) Expenditure (Table B3)**

Agency costs for month 5 totalled £0.083m. The current percentage of agency costs against the total pay figure remains very small, at 0.4%. This is to cover a small number of vacancies, in areas across the Trust which the Trust is having difficulties recruiting into, however it is hoped that some of these agency staff will be replaced by permanent staff in the near future. Forecasts have been updated to show expenditure stopping after September.

## **8. Saving Plans (Table C, C1, C2 & C3)**

For month 5 the Trust is reporting planned savings (including Income generation) of £3.486m and actual savings of £3.582m.

As can be seen from Table C3, the Trust overachieved its savings target in month 5 but it still forecasting to achieve the total original savings target for the year. As detailed above, this doesn't take into account any further ask on the Trust to manage either the additional external cost pressure or reduction from assumed funding, or any additional in year ask via the JCC,

## 9. Income/Expenditure Assumptions (Tables D, E and E1)

These are set out in Tables D, E and E1.

The Trust income assumptions are included within table E1, please note the JCC income figure quoted assumes the funding for the 24-25 pay award, however this has now been paid in September.

The 25-26 pay award funding is now assumed in the WG income and included in the pay figures however this excludes any uplift for VSM or ESM pay award which is yet to be completed. **(Action Point 3.8)**

## 10. Statement of Financial Position and Aged Welsh NHS Debtors (Table F & M)

Please note the April figures have now been amended to reflect the Audited accounts, due to an issue in the tables the revenue cash position wasn't updating in the model this has been rectified in month 5 **(Action Point 3.11)**

At month 5 there was 9 invoices over 11 weeks, there are no issues with these invoices and expect them all to be paid in month 6.

## 11. Cash flow (Table G)

The cash flow has been completed in accordance with the guidance, included below is the details of 'Other' receipts and 'Other' payments as shown within lines 10 and 22 of Table G.

	Apr £,000	May £,000	Jun £,000	Jul £,000	Aug £,000	Sep £,000	Oct £,000	Nov £,000	Dec £,000	Jan £,000	Feb £,000	Mar £,000	Total £,000
<b>RECEIPTS</b>													
other (specify in narrative)													
CRU Income	16	12	15	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	160
Other Non NHS Income	329	268	293	135	453	266	266	266	266	266	266	270	3,344
Pensions Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vat Refund	0	435	384	0	622	800	400	400	400	400	400	400	4,641
Risk Pool Refund	1,519	0	1,020	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,547
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,864</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>10,692</b>

## 12. Public Sector Payment Compliance (Table H)

As per the guidance this had been completed for quarter 1.

## 13. Capital (Tables I, J and K)

The capital tables have been completed in accordance with the guidance.

Works are ongoing with Programme managers to establish updated cash flows that reflect the profiles of approved projects now for this financial year, however at present schemes are progressing well, and more detailed updates will be provided as the financial year progresses.

The CEL has been updated with the latest CEL values and issue date **(Action Point 4.8)**

## 14. Committee to receive Financial Monitoring Return

The Trust confirms that financial information reported in the monitoring return is entirely consistent with financial details reported internally, including details within Trust Board papers and that of its Committees.

The month 5 Financial Monitoring Return will be presented to the Trust Board on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

Governance arrangements for formal sign off of the monitoring return narrative in the absence of the Director of Finance or Chief Executive will be delegated to their Deputies but in exceptional circumstances could be signed by a Senior Finance Manager and an Executive Director. Signatures on this return contain Edward Roberts, Acting Director of Finance and Rachel Marsh, Interim Chief Executive.

### **15. Other Issues**

There are no other matters of major significance to draw to your attention at this stage.

If you would like to discuss any matter included in this monitoring return letter or attached tables, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Edward Roberts  
Acting Director of Finance



Rachel Marsh  
Interim Chief Executive

Enc cc:  
Mr C Dennis, Chairman  
Non-Executive Directors Executive Directors