

Reporting Committee	WHSSC - All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel
Chaired by	Elizabeth Abderrahim
Lead Executive Director	Director of Nursing and Quality Assurance
Date of last meeting	WHSSC IPFR Panel meeting 06 March 2024

Summary of key matters considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.

The following table demonstrates the number of requests considered at the Chair's Action Panel meetings and All Wales IPFR Panel meetings during this reporting period.

	Number of Requests discussed as Chair's Actions	Number of Requests discussed by WHSSC IPFR Panel
March [from 11/03]	10	16
April	0	12
May [up to 13 May]	0	15

Key risks and issues/matters of concern and any mitigating actions

The Backlog of Applications.

The greatest risk mentioned in the last IPFR Chairs report was the backlog of applications created as a result of the cancellation of Panel meetings. In order to manage the risk a decision was taken that Panel meetings should not be cancelled and should go ahead with any decisions made at inquorate meeting subsequently being ratified at the next quorate meeting. This was to ensure that patients received a decision about their proposed treatment without any further delay. Since my last Chair's report there have been a further 4 scheduled meetings [on 20 March, 3 and 17 April and 1 May 2024] and all of these have been quorate. With the agreement of members those Panels continued to manage an above average number of applications on the agenda which has meant that it has not been necessary to convene any additional meetings in order to address the backlog of applications. In this way the backlog has now been eliminated.

The Implementation of the Revised All Wales IPFR Policy

The revised All Wales IPFR Policy [the Policy] is yet to be implemented but confirmation was received from Welsh Government on 17 April 2024 that the new All Wales Policy can be adopted. An implementation date of 1 June 2024 has been

agreed to ensure that HBs can review their JCC IPFR membership. Until this date the Panel is obliged to continue operating under Terms of Reference which require five of the seven Health Boards to be represented. This quoracy requirement has posed challenges in the past but recent meetings have all been quorate.

It's anticipated that the reduced quoracy requirements under the revised Terms of Reference [four rather than five Health Board representatives] will address the difficulties there have been in convening quorate meetings.

In anticipation of the implementation of the revised Terms of Reference steps have been taken to ensure that the membership of the Panel is established as soon as possible. This has included writing again to the Medical Directors of each of the Health Boards inviting them to confirm the identity of their representative – under the revised Terms of Reference the Health Boards should be represented by the Chair of the Health Board's own IPFR Panel or, if not the Chair, a nominated clinical deputy. We are awaiting final confirmation from Health Boards.

- As identified above.

Matters referred to other Committees

- None

Confirmed Minutes for each of the meetings are available on request.

Date of next meeting	15 May 2024
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