

<b>Agenda Item</b>
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<b>Joint Commissioning Committee</b>
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<b>Corporate Governance Report</b>
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<b>Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting</b>	17/03/2026
<b>Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status</b>	Open/ Public
	Not Applicable
<b>Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author</b>	Aaron Fowler Committee Secretary, NWJCC
<b>Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter</b>	Aaron Fowler Committee Secretary, NWJCC
<b>Noddwr Gweithredol yr Adroddiad / Report Executive Sponsor</b>	Georgina Galletly, Director of Corporate Planning and Strategy, NWJCC

<b>Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose</b>	Endorse for HB Approval Approve and Note
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<b>Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt /consideration at Committee/Group)</b>		
<b>Committee / Group / Individuals</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
NWJCC Senior Leadership Team	11/03/2026	Noted

<b>Acronyms / Glossary of Terms</b>	
IPFR	Individual Patient Funding Request
JC	Joint Commissioning Committee
NWJCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
WG	Welsh Government
WHC	Welsh Health Circular

## 1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on corporate governance matters relating to the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) that have arisen since the previous meeting.

There are several corporate governance matters that need to be reported as a regular item in-line with the governance and accountability framework for the Joint Committee (JC). This report encompasses all such issues as one agenda item.

## 2. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL

### 2.1 Welsh Health Circulars (WHCs)

Welsh Government (WG) issue WHCs to provide official guidance and mandates to health and care organisations in Wales to ensure compliance with new policies, standards, and procedures. Such updates typically communicate important information, such as updates to national programs, new codes of practice, and policy frameworks.

To ensure that NWJCC colleagues remain aware of the changing policies, procedures or standards set out within WHCs the Corporate Governance team share published WHCs with commissioning and clinical leads for action, as necessary.

Since the January 2025 meeting of the JC the following WHCs have been received and are available via the WG website (<https://www.gov.wales/health-circulars-2024-2027#Circulars2025>) for further detail and an overview of the requirements, risks and governance issues associated with each:

- COVID-19 spring vaccination programme 2026 (WHC/2025/052)
- Update on RSV vaccination programme 2026 (WHC/2025/053)
- Code of Practice Quality Assurance and Performance Management, Escalating Concerns, and Closure of regulated Care and Support Services (WHC/2025/044)
- Implementation of the Planned Care Activity DSCN (Data Standard Change Notice) (WHC/2026/002)
- NHS Research and Development Finance Policy 2026 (WHC/2026/008)

### 2.2 NWJCC Internal Audit Programme 2025-26

The internal audit programme for the NWJCC for 2025-26 includes:

- Q3 Individual Patient Funding Requests – **Complete**
- Q4 Strategic Planning
- Q4 High-Cost Drugs
- Q4 Budget Management

The Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Audit has been approved, and shared with the Cwm Taf Morganwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) Hosted Bodies Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

Internal Audit issued a Substantial Assurance rating for the IPFR process and a copy of the report has also been shared with the Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee (QSOC) on 23 February 2026 and can be accessed [here](#).

Work will continue with NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership's Internal Audit department to agree the scopes for each remaining audit scheduled for Quarter 4 of 2025-26 and to develop a robust audit plan for 2026-27.

### **2.3 Hosting Arrangements**

In accordance with the Hosting Agreement between the NWJCC and CTMUHB ("the Hosting Agreement"), a review of hosting arrangements between the two organisations is underway.

The basis of this review is being informed by performance over the last year and will be guided by the recent Welsh Government review of the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Accountability and Governance Arrangements (<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-12/review-of-the-nhs-wales-shared-services-partnership.pdf>), including recommendations to ensure that there are practical arrangements in place for both organisations to discharge their governance and accountability responsibilities to each other and adjust them as necessary to ensure effective implementation of the Hosting Agreement.

An update on the outcome of this review will be shared with the JC at its May 2026 meeting.

### **2.4 Work in Progress**

As we approach year end the Corporate Governance team has progressed work on the following reviews:

- Joint Committee and Sub-Committee annual effectiveness reviews;
- Sub Committee Terms of Reference Reviews;
- Sub Committee Annual Report;
- The Annual Accountability Report, to support CTMUHB's Annual Report and Accounts preparation; and
- Standing Orders Annual Review.

#### **2.4.1 Annual Effectiveness Surveys**

In accordance with section 9.2 of the NWJCC Standing Orders:

*"The Committee Secretary shall oversee a process of regular and thorough self-assessment and evaluation of the Committee's performance and operation on behalf of the Joint Committee".*

Whilst a review of JC effectiveness was undertaken during 2024/25, due to the infancy of Sub-Committee arrangements, no such review was undertaken for either the QSOC, or the Performance, Planning and Finance Committee (PPF).

Following a year of operation, it is appropriate to review the performance and effectiveness of the QSOC and PPF Sub-Committees for 2025/26 and effectiveness surveys have been circulated to Sub-Committee members and regular attendees for feedback.

A similar approach is proposed for the JC committee effectiveness review and attached at **Appendix 1** are the proposed effectiveness questions to be circulated with JC Members. Subject to feedback from the JC, it is proposed that effectiveness questionnaires be shared electronically with responses to be shared and reported upon at the May 2026 JC meeting. Sub-Committee feedback, which will have been considered at April 2026 Sub-Committee meetings will also be shared in May and feedback will be incorporated into ongoing NWJCC Organisational Development programmes.

Following the appointment and arrival of a permanent Chief Commissioner during 2026/27, it is proposed that an externally facilitated effectiveness review be undertaken to evaluate JC and Sub-Committee culture, skills gaps, and strategic focus.

#### **2.4.2 Sub-Committee Terms of Reference**

Pursuant to paragraph 16.1 of the NWJCC Standing Orders, Sub-Committee Terms of Reference (ToR) are subject to annual review.

Following a year of operation, consideration has been given to the content of the Sub-Committee ToR, and how they align with the NWJCC's governance framework and operational structure, acknowledging that the NWJCC is a maturing organisation, with a recruitment process underway to appoint a new Chief Commissioner, who may have their own view on the role and responsibilities of the Sub-Committee.

Proposed updates to Sub-Committee ToR have incorporated largely administrative changes for clarity and accuracy. Draft updated ToR's were shared with members of the QSOC and PPF Sub-Committees at their respective meetings in February 2026. Copies of the draft ToR, incorporating feedback from Sub-Committees are attached at **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3**.

Each Sub-Committees was content with the proposed amendments, and the attached ToR are presented to the JC for endorsement and recommendation to Health Boards for approval (Standing Order 5.9).

#### **2.4.3 Sub Committee Annual Reports**

In accordance with best practice, the NWJCC Sub-Committees produce an Annual Report setting out how they have met their Terms of Reference, and the NWJCC's wider Standing Orders (Standing Order 7.24), during the financial year.

Attached at **Appendix 4** and **Appendix 5** are the QSOC and PPF Sub-Committee annual reports and forward plans of business for 2026-27. These were presented and endorsed at the February 2026 Sub-Committee meetings.

Each of the Annual Reports are shared with the JC for assurance.

#### **2.4.4 The Annual Accountability Report, to support CTMUHB's Annual Report and Accounts preparation 2025/2026**

Chapter 3 of the HM Treasury Financial Reporting Manual (FREM) stipulates that statutory NHS bodies are required to publish, as a single document, a three-part annual report and accounts which includes a Performance Report, an Accountability Report (including an Annual Governance Statement (AGS)) and Financial Statements.

As a hosted body the JC does not have a statutory duty to produce an AGS or an Annual report but will prepare an Accountability Report, as a matter of good governance and to provide assurance to Health Boards, in particular CTMUHB as the host organisation, in relation to the NWJCC's governance and accountability arrangements. Additionally, the NWJCC Standing Orders (SO 9.2) state that the NWJCC shall provide a written, annual report to CTMUHB in support of its Annual Governance Statement.

The AGS is a key feature of an organisation's Annual Report and Accounts and demonstrates publicly the management and control of resources and the extent to which the body complies with its own governance requirements, including how they have monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of their governance arrangements. It is intended that the NWJCC Accountability Report will bring together in one place, all disclosures relating to governance, risk and control.

The NWJCC Accountability Report will:

- provide assurance on the Chief Commissioners Accountable Officer status for the propriety and regularity of public finances delegated to them by Health Boards,
- explain the NWJCC's internal control structures,
- explain the risks the organisation has been exposed to, how the risks were mitigated, the potential impact of the risks on the NWJCC's operating environment,
- the achievements of the organisation during the year; and
- how the organisation coped with the challenges faced.

The Accountability Report is under development and a draft will be presented to the NWJCC Sub-Committees in April 2026 meetings for Lay Members to provide comments and feedback. A draft will subsequently be presented to the CTMUHB Audit & Risk Committee (ARAC) in May 2026. A final draft will be presented to the JC on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and ARAC on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026 for recommendation to the CTMUHB Board for Approval on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026 prior to being submitted

to Audit Wales and Welsh Government. The final document will be presented to the CTMUHB Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 30 June 2026.

#### 2.4.5 Forward Plan of Joint Committee Business to March 2027

The Forward Plan of JC Business to March 2027 is presented as **Appendix 6** for approval.

In addition, the Forward Plans of Business for the Sub-Committees has been developed to help plan the management of Sub-Committee matters and facilitate the management of agendas and committee business.

The JC forward plan of business incorporates, standing agenda items, agreed actions that have been carried forward and updates to monitor progress against the commitments set out within the NWJCC Integrated Medium Term Plan. It should be noted that the forward plan will be subject to update during the 2026-27 to consider emerging issues as they arise.

#### 2.4.6 Standing Orders Annual Review

An annual review of the NWJCC Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions is underway. A Budget Management Internal Audit is underway and the findings following this audit will inform the review of the Standing Financial Instructions. Updated documents are likely to be presented to the May 2026 JC meeting for endorsement and recommendation to Health Boards for approval.

### 3. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
<b>Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC</b> <b>Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)</b>	Ensure Quality
<b>Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant /</b> <b>Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals</b> <a href="#">150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf</a> <a href="#">(futuregenerations.wales)</a>	A Healthier Wales
<b>Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd</b> (Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / <b>Link to Enablers of Quality</b> <a href="#">(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance gov.wales)</a>	Leadership
<b>Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd</b>	Effective

(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / <b>Link to Domains of Quality</b> ( <a href="#">Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales)</a> )	
<b>Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)</b>	No - Not Applicable

<b>Impact Assessment</b>		
<b>Ansawdd</b> <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i> <b>Quality</b> <i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below: N/A
<b>Cydraddoldeb</b> <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i> <b>Equality</b> <i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below: N/A
<b>Cyfreithiol / Legal</b>	Yes (Include further detail below)	
	The NWJCC's Standing Orders were issued by Welsh Ministers to Local Health Boards (LHBs) using powers of direction provided in section 12 (3) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006. Each Local Health Board in Wales must agree the Standing Orders for the regulation of the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee's proceedings and business to form part of each LHBs Standing Orders.	
<b>Enw da / Reputational</b>	There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Joint Committee as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
<b>Effaith Adnoddau</b> <i>(Pobl /Ariannol) /</i>	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	

<b>Resource Impact</b> <i>(People / Financial)</i>	A sound system of financial control enacts robust financial control, safeguards public funds and the NWJCC’s assets and resources. Robust governance arrangements underpinning financial management contribute towards internal control and value for money being achieved.
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#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The members of the Joint Commissioning Committee are asked to:

- **Note** the report, and updates shared, acknowledging the assurance provided by the QSOC and PPF Annual Reports
- **Endorse:**
  - a. The QSOC and PPF Terms of Reference and recommend each to Health Board’s for approval.
- **Approve:**
  - a. The JC Annual Effectiveness Survey questions for circulation to JC Members
  - b. The QSOC and PPF Forward Plans
  - c. The JC Forward Plan of Business