



Agenda Item
5.5

Joint Commissioning Committee

Corporate Governance Report

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	25/11/2025
Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status	Open/ Public
	Not Applicable
Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author	Aaron Fowler Committee Secretary, NWJCC
Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter	Aaron Fowler Committee Secretary, NWJCC
Noddwr Gweithredol yr Adroddiad / Report Executive Sponsor	Georgina Galletly, Director of Corporate Planning and Strategy, NWJCC

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For Approval
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Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt /consideration at Committee/Group)		
Committee / Group / Individuals	Date	Outcome
NWJCC Senior Leadership Team	19/11/2025	Noted

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
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.

Since the September 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:

- Accessible communication and information standards in healthcare (WHC/2025/038) – Issued 23.09.2025
- Data standards notice of change for Waiting Well single point of contact (WHC/2025/031)
- Data standards notice of change for planned care referrals (WHC/2025/034)
- Infected blood inquiry: implementing recommendation 7e, SHOT reports (WHC/2025/037)
- (WHC/2025/045): Revisions to the Standing Orders for the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (Please see section 2.2 below)

2.2 Standing Orders

In January 2025, the Local Health Boards, NHS Trusts and Special Health Authorities (Constitution, Membership and Procedures) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2024 (“the Regulations”) came into force. These regulations resulted in revisions to the Model Standing Orders and Reservation and Delegation of Powers for Local Health Boards, NHS Trusts and Special Health Authorities using the Welsh Ministers power of direction in accordance with Section 12(3), Section 19(1) and Section 23(1) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006.

Unfortunately, the Regulations did not mandate that revisions to section 7 of the standing orders (Committee Meetings: Notifying the public and others) should

apply to the NWJCC. To rectify this oversight the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care has written to our Chair to confirm that the NWJCC's Standing Orders are to be updated to adopt the same approach to committee meetings as Health Boards, NHS Trusts and Special Health Authorities.

The detail of the proposed amendments is shared below but can also be found within WHC/2025/045 a copy of which is attached as **Appendix 1**:

Standing Orders - Section 7 Committee Meetings: Notifying the public and others

The NWJCC is required to amend the text in green within the following paragraph, from:

7.12 *Except for meetings called in accordance with SOs, at least 10 calendar days before each meeting of the Joint Committee, a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed bilingually (in English and Welsh) as follows:*

- *Each LHBs website shall link to the JCC website, where the papers supporting the public part of the agenda will be available; as well as*
- *Through other methods of communication as set out in the Joint Committee's communication strategy.*

When providing notification of the forthcoming meeting, each LHB shall set out when and how the agenda and the papers supporting the public part of the agenda may be accessed, in what language and in what format, e.g., as Braille, large print, etc.

To:

7.12 *Except for meetings called in accordance with SOs, at least 10 calendar days before each meeting of the Joint Committee, a public notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be displayed bilingually (in English and Welsh):*

- *On the JCC's website;*
- *Each LHBs website shall link to the JCC website; as well as*
- *Through other methods of communication as set out in the JCC's communication strategy.*

When providing notification of the forthcoming meeting, the committee shall set out when and how the agenda and the papers supporting the public part of the agenda may be accessed, in what language and in what format, e.g., as Braille, large print, etc. The agenda and papers will be made available to the public at least 5 clear days before each meeting of the Committee.

It is not anticipated that the amendments to the Standing Orders will result in any operational or functional impact to the NWJCC and it is recommended that the JC approve the updated NWJCC Standing Orders, attached as **Appendix 2**.

Updated NWJCC standing orders will also form part of Schedule 4 of the Local Health Board Model Standing Orders and following NWJCC approval, Local Health Board, NHS Trust and Special Health Authority Board approval will be sought in January 2026.

2.3 All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Policy

At its May 2025 Committee meeting the JC approved the All-Wales IPFR Policy ("the Policy").

Notwithstanding this, further minor amendments to **Appendix 1** (Decision Making Factors) of the Policy were requested by the IPFR Policy Implementation Group and Health Boards.

Proposed amendments to the Policy are highlighted in yellow within the draft Policy attached to this report as **Appendix 2**. The NWJCC Medical Director is content with the proposed amendments, and it is recommended that the revised Policy is approved by the JC.

Subject to approval of the Policy by the Joint Committee Health Board approval of the Policy will be sought, with a proposed adoption of the Policy from 1 December 2025.

2.4 NWJCC Internal Audit Programme 2025-26

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

- Q3 Individual Patient Funding Requests
- Q4 Strategic Planning
- Q4 High-Cost Drugs
- Q4 Budget Management.

A brief for the Individual Patient Funding Request Audit has been agreed and 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

2.5 Forward Plan of Committee Business 2025-2026

The Forward Plan of Committee Business is presented at **Appendix 3** for information.

3. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)	Ensure Quality
Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals 150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf (futuregenerations.wales)	A Healthier Wales
Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd (Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Enablers of Quality (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Leadership
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd (Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Domains of Quality (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Effective
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	No - Not Applicable

Impact Assessment		
Ansawdd <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i> Quality <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
Cydraddoldeb <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i> Equality	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below: N/A

<i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>		
Cyfreithiol / Legal	<p>Yes (Include further detail below)</p> <p>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.</p>	
Enw da / Reputational	<p>There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Joint Committee as a result of the activity outlined in this report.</p>	
Effaith Adnoddau <i>(Pobl /Ariannol) /</i> Resource Impact <i>(People / Financial)</i>	<p>There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.</p> <p>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.</p>	

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The members of the Joint Commissioning Committee are asked to:

- **Note** the report; and
- **Note** the internal audit programme for the NWJCC for 2025-26.
- **Approve:**
 - a. The updated to the Scheme of Delegation; and
 - b. The updated All Wales IPFR Policy for onward approval by Health Boards.