

**Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/
Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru
Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**

**Director General Health and Social Services/
NHS Wales Chief Executive
Health and Social Services Group**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Mark Isherwood MS
Chair
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Our Ref: JP/PV/SB

22 August 2022

Dear Chair

Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) Governance

I wrote to you on 3 March to update in relation to Recommendation 5 of the Auditor General for Wales's report of May 2021 into Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) Governance arrangements, and to confirm that this recommendation, in relation to the remuneration of independent members, is complete.

I am now writing to confirm the position around Recommendations 6 and 7 of the same report which remain outstanding and which I also propose should be cleared. You will appreciate that we have had to wait for the right moment to prioritise this work given the challenges of the pandemic recovery.

Recommendation 6: Sub-regional and regional programme management (linked to recommendation 2 directed to WHSSC)

Recommendation 6 said that when new regional or sub-regional specialised services are planned which are not the sole responsibility of WHSSC, then effective multi partner programme management arrangements should be in place from concept through to completion. We are now starting to see the NHS Executive and National Clinical Framework arrangements taking shape and reasonable progress is being made in thinking through the mandate, scope and remit of the component parts of the system, including the setting up of clinical networks and communities of practice. I am confident that these arrangements will provide more robust support for service change where it is required to deliver better patient care and outcomes, including where a regional approach would be the best solution. This will be underpinned by strengthened accountability and performance management arrangements overseen by the NHS Executive.

Recommendation 7: Future governance and accountability arrangements for specialised services

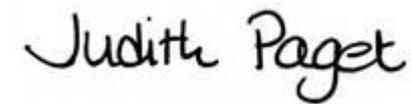
Recommendation 7 said that a review of the WHSSC arrangements along with other national hosted and specialist advisory functions should be undertaken.

I am in the process of setting up new piece of work to review the national commissioning arrangements in NHS Wales. The scope of this work and a timetable are currently being considered. However, we will be sure to take account of these recommendations as part of the rationale behind the work.

I trust that having described the work that is now in train, you will agree that we can close these recommendations from the Audit Wales report.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Auditor General for Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Paget". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith Paget CBE

cc: Minister for Health and Social Services
Deputy Minister for Social Services
Nick Wood
Samia Edmonds
Chris Jones
Pat Vernon