

**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**

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Our Ref: AG/DP/SB

22 November 2019

Dear Mr Ramsay

NHS Wales Informatics Services

Thank you for your letter of 8 November.

I am pleased that the Committee noted progress the Welsh Government has made in taking forward the Committee's recommendations, and that you are supportive of our approach to establishing the new SHA, whilst mindful of the timescale.

I agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the following areas:

- Share the job specification for the Chief Digital Officer when finalised and advise on the successful candidate, when appointed;
- Explore the availability of My Health Online when GP practices merge; and
- Keep the Committee informed about the procurement for GP informatics systems following the recent cancellation of the contract.

Chief Digital Officer for Wales

The work to take forward the advertising of the new CDO is underway. At Committee, I stated the work to complete this process had commenced and that I hoped the recruitment process would be completed by the Spring. I am unable to share with the Committee the draft client's job description as my team is currently working through the NHS evaluation and recruitment process to ensure the job description is ready for advertising early in the New Year. As soon as this process is completed I will arrange to provide Committee with the final published version.

When I attended Committee you will recall, I stated the importance of ensuring we are able to attract the right individual with the right skills and experience. The Committee may have seen the Welsh Government's announcement on 31 October regarding the appointment of a CDO for Local Government in Wales. This appointment is also scheduled to be in place by the Spring. These appointments are key to supporting digital transformation across the public sector. To ensure our recruitment attracts strong candidates for both roles, I have asked my team to work closely with internal and external stakeholders, including the Welsh Government's CDO, to ensure alignment between the two recruitment processes. Once the recruitment process for the new CDO for Health and Social Care is completed, I will advise the Committee of its outcome.

Keep the Committee informed about the procurement for GP informatics systems following the recent cancellation of the contract; and explore the availability of My Health Online when GP practices merge.

The contract to deliver clinical systems to Welsh GP practices from January 2019, was originally envisaged for a five-year period, with the option to extend for up to a further two years. The decision to terminate one of the providers, leaves one remaining provider on the framework. In light of this, a period of review with GP stakeholders will be undertaken to determine the suitable options to proceed. This review is anticipated to conclude in January 2020, in order to fully assess the options of how NHS Wales can continue to offer a choice of clinical system to GP practices. Following this review with stakeholders we will agree the next stage of the procurement strategy.

An issue for patients can occur when two practices using different clinical systems merge, this is not a technical issue, the movement to a single clinical system for the patients of the merged practice currently requires patients to re-register to use MHOL when moving on to a new system. I have asked NWIS to look at how this process can be made easier for patients.

I have noted you would appreciate regular updates as this work progresses, particularly on how the roles of the Chief Digital Officer, the Chief Information Officer and the Chief Clinical Information Officer will fit together. It is also noted you require a detailed update on the implementation of the remaining recommendations from the Committee's Report by 31 October 2020.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Goodall CBE