

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

Huw Vaughan Thomas  
Auditor General for Wales  
Wales Audit Office

22 January 2018

Dear Huw

**Auditor General Value for Money examination: Informatics systems in NHS Wales**

Thank you for your report into informatics systems in NHS Wales. I appreciate the work that the study team have undertaken on this over the past 18 months.

I am pleased to see that the report recognises that NHS Wales has a clear vision for the electronic patient record in Wales and, while I recognise that we do face some challenges, I am confident that we have made substantial progress, even in the time since your team carried out the review, and will continue to drive improvements in the future.

During early discussions, it was agreed that Welsh Government would respond to the report in two stages. This is to reflect that the scope of the review was wider than the Welsh Government and the NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) and, as such, we need to engage with NHS Wales and ensure our response reflects the wider view; and to recognise that the publication of the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care in Wales will also inform our response.

This initial response acknowledges the key findings concerning the difficulties around securing adequate funding to take forward the vision; the need to strengthen prioritisation processes; and the need to review the governance arrangements for NWIS.

We have already had substantial discussions on the key findings of the review with the Director of NWIS and the lead NHS Chief Executive for Informatics and are considering a wider review of the whole informatics governance landscape.

Funding and prioritisation of work are intrinsically linked and therefore, the work on prioritisation and the National Plan, overseen by the NHS Wales Informatics Management Board (NIMB, which is made up of executive members of NHS organisations with responsibility for informatics, representatives of NWIS and senior Welsh Government

officials), is key. It is also clear that this is not just for Welsh Government to consider, as the way funding is allocated within NHS organisations is predominately an NHS issue.

There will be further discussion with NHS Chief Executives and senior Welsh Government officials at the NHS Wales Executive Board on January 30, and members of NIMB are considering what the report means to their organisations, with a substantial item on the report on the agenda for NIMB's meeting on February 15.

Officials are also reviewing the findings of your review alongside the findings of the Parliamentary Review.

All these activities will contribute to a collaborative, informed and comprehensive response to your review that I will provide by March 2.

I am aware that the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will be considering their response to the report at its meeting on the January 29 and a copy of this letter will be sent to the PAC Chair to facilitate that.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Andrew Goodall**

cc: Nick Ramsay AM, Chair, Public Accounts Committee  
Frances Duffy, Director of Primary Care and Innovation, HSS Group  
David Richards, Director of Governance and Performance