

Dr Andrew Goodall  
Director General Health & Social Services/NHS Wales Chief  
Executive

16 November 2020

Dear Dr Goodall

**Inquiry into COVID-19 and its impact on matters relating to the Public Accounts Committee's remit: Evidence session with the Welsh Government on health issues**

I wish to thank you again for attending the Public Accounts Committee on 9 November particularly in these busy and challenging times. The Committee Members were extremely grateful for the information they received. You agreed to provide some additional information, which I have detailed below:

- A note on the main findings from the peer review of the Quarter 2 plans submitted by NHS organisations and how the shared learning be put into practice;
- An update on the outcomes of the meetings the Finance Director has had with each NHS organisation to review their financial plans and latest year-end forecasts;
- Details of the mechanisms the NHS has adopted to counter fraudulent practice in procurement;
- An overview of nursing ratios within the NHS and details of the number of retired nurses and doctors who have been re-employed to alleviate service pressures during the pandemic; and
- A note on the Welsh Government review of the Townsend formula.

You also kindly agreed to respond to a number of questions that we were unable to ask, due to time restrictions, which are detailed below:



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- As we enter the second wave of the Covid pandemic, how are you prioritising non-COVID patients and ensuring that certain groups are not being adversely impacted by this prioritisation;
  - How are you mitigating the risks around clinical negligence claims given the difficult decisions that are having to be made regarding the prioritisation of services during the pandemic;
  - We have concerns over the replacement of the Canisc system, and understand that the contract for the Blaenavon Data Centre is coming to an end. (The situation is referred to in the Velindre University NHS Trusts Board papers – 24 September 2020). Please could you provide us with an update on this situation including the potential impact of the closure and delays in cancer treatments;
  - On 1 November 2020, Public Health Wales reported that, due to a data transfer problem between it and the NHS Wales Informatics Services ‘some recent test results may not have been included’ in the data reported for that day. Can you explain what happened and what actions have been taken to avoid any recurrences of the issues; and
  - In August, you provided an update on the implementation of the recommendations in the Committee’s report about the management of follow up outpatients across Wales. Are you able to provide an update in terms of the data set out in your letter, which pre-dated the pandemic; what does the new data show in respect of the position at a regional and national level.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Nick Ramsay MS**

**Chair**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

