

23 March 2018

Dear Colleagues,

NHS Wales Informatics Services

As you are probably aware, the Auditor General for Wales published a Report on [NHS Wales Informatics Services](#) in January 2018 and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has agreed to undertake an inquiry.

The Committee has previously expressed its frustration at the delays in implementing IT systems for hospital catering as part of its previous work in that area and will wish to discuss this during oral evidence sessions together with reasons for the significant delays in delivering updated ICT services, weaknesses in arrangements to oversee and support delivery and risks that the electronic patients record system will be outdated on completion of the delayed implementation.

The Committee's inquiry will focus on the following:

- The Welsh Government's leadership role for informatics in NHS Wales, including, for example, ensuring NHS bodes agree what 'Once for Wales' means in practice.
- The work the Welsh Government is doing to better understand the costs of delivering its vision for informatics and how that could be funded given the downwards trend in spending on ICT and the £484 million estimate of the cost of delivering the vision for informatics on top of current budgets.
- The extent of resourcing and investment at a local level.
- The effectiveness of governance and accountability arrangements in light of concerns identified by the Auditor General and the recommendations of the



Parliamentary Review to bring bodies such as NWIS within a strengthened central NHS Wales Executive function.

- Local leadership, including clinical leadership, and NHS bodies' perspectives on the factors behind slow progress in delivering the electronic patient record.
- Workforce challenges, including recruitment and retention of ICT specialists.
- Getting greater clarity about whether the intended benefits of investment are being achieved.

The Committee is aware of the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care and in considering the scope for this inquiry, does not wish to duplicate any work the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee plans to carry out in respect of the Parliamentary Review.

I am writing to ask for your views on the above points together with any views you may have on the findings of the Auditor General's Report, reflections on wider practice elsewhere across the UK and further afield, and any general comments you may have on the implementation of IT systems by 20 April.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair

