

Dr Andrew Goodall
Director General Health and Social Services/ NHS Wales Chief
Executive Health and Social Services Group
Welsh Government

23 January 2019

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for the Welsh Government's response to the Public Accounts Committee's report on Informatics Systems in NHS Wales, which was laid on 12 December 2018. As you will be aware there will be a Plenary Debate on the report on 30 January 2019.

The Committee considered the Welsh Government's response at its meeting held on 14 January 2019. We welcome the Welsh Government's acceptance of the Committee's recommendations and its commitment to a number of reviews to look at informatics and the development of a National Informatics Plan. However, we were disappointed that the response did not seem to recognise the Committee's deep concerns about the slow pace of delivery of new informatics systems across the NHS in Wales. There appears to be little recognition in the response of the radical change that is required and the urgency with which this needs to be delivered. We note that the outcomes of the reviews will lead to change but this needs to be achieved at pace as Informatics in NHS Wales have failed to keep up with modern technology, and every day staff within the NHS are struggling with systems that do not work.



We note that the reviews and plan will be completed within six months, at which time we expect an update of the latest position regarding the Plan. We will also wish to seek assurances that the Welsh Government and the wider NHS will act with the necessity needed to put in place the resources and practical changes required to improve informatics in the same timescale. I therefore, wish to invite you, together with your relevant officials, to attend the Committee meeting scheduled for the afternoon of 1 July 2019. In advance of this session the Committee would like to receive a paper regarding the comparative information at this time and demonstrating whether the numbers and severity of data outages have reduced.

We would be grateful for clarification of whether the Welsh Government intends to publish the findings and recommendations arising from its reviews, or share these with the Committee, as the reviews are concluded.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

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

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair

