

 GIG CYMRU NHS WALES	Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales	Name of Meeting Board
		Date of Meeting 26 May 2022
		Agenda item PHW 6.1

Chair's Report to the Board concerning the matters considered in the Private Board meeting of the 31 March 2022.

Chair	Jan Williams
Date of last meeting	31 March 2022

Summary of the key matters that the Board considered when meeting in private session, on 31 March 2022, together with any related decisions made:

In line with Public Health Wales' Standing Orders, the Board conducts its meetings in public. Public Health Wales' Standing Orders make provision, at paragraph 7.5.2, for the Board to meet and discuss certain matters in private.

The Public Bodies Act (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1 (2) provides the legal basis for such Private Board Meetings to ensure that the matters under consideration are not prejudicial to the public interest – that they do not cause undue harm or influence the public unfairly.

Public Health Wales has a Protocol for Reserving Matters to a Private Board (or Committee) meeting, which can be seen here - [Microsoft Word - 5.6 BOARD 270521 Protocol for private meetings.docx \(nhs.wales\)](#)

This Chair's Report is a standing agenda item, for the purposes of transparency and accountability. This report the matters that the Board considered during the Private Board meeting of the 31 March 2022.

The Standing Financial Instructions confirm that any financial decisions above £500,000 are a matter for the Board and require Board approval. Further details about financial delegations can be seen in Public Health Wales' Standing Financial Instructions here - [Microsoft Word - PHW Standing Orders and delegation of powers - v9 - Approved May 2021.docx \(nhs.wales\)](#). On this occasion, the Board did not consider any procurement requests or business cases.

The Board did consider the following:

- **Staff Network presentation** – Women's Staff Network. Throughout 2021/22, the Board met with the chairs of the five Staff Networks, giving Directors and opportunity to hear directly from the 'front line'. These were held in private session to enable an open conversation across all workforce-related matters. In March 2022, the Women's Network co-chairs made a presentation, which included three 'asks' of the Board. Board Directors supported the requests in principle, and delegated the implementation arrangements to the Executive Team. The Board agreed to take a report at its public May 2022 meeting, summarising the 'asks' made in-year from all Networks, together with the actions taken.
- The Board welcomed Dr Sir Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer for Wales and

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discussed Public Health Wales' collaborative **relationship** with Welsh Government, including: the system leadership role for public health in Wales; the key value of the Advice Notices that the Public Health Wales' team provided to support Welsh Government policy; opportunities to return to the broader public health agenda as the pressure from the pandemic reduced and the importance of continued preparation against future surges in COVID-19 cases or new variants. The discussion included detail not in the public domain.

- The Board received and discussed an update on relevant (non-COVID related) **health protection** issues, including an update on the Tuberculosis outbreak in Llwynhendy and Public Health Wales' involvement in the response to the Ukraine situation, including the work/ schemes in place to support Ukrainian refugees. The confidential nature of the subject matter warranted discussion in private session. The Board agenda for the meeting on 26 May 2022 includes an update in public session.
- As part of its **COVID-19 update**, the Board considered and discussed plans for ongoing surveillance and the development of future proofing 'surge' preparation plans should there be changes to the stable numbers of COVID-19 cases in Wales. The update was of a confidential nature; the report added detail to the report in the public session that was not yet in the public domain.
- The Board considered a report on the **stock update** for two separate stock issues, around the need to write off stock and to fulfil contractual payments, resulting from a number of factors related to the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic; these included changes in science and Government policy. The Board approved the losses and took assurance from the processing of the losses in accordance with Welsh Government guidance and the Trust's Standing Financial Instructions. The Annual Accounts would include a report on the losses, in accordance with the NHS Manual for Accounts.
- The Board noted the update from the **Committee Chairs of Committee meetings** held in private following the Private Board session on 27 January 2022. The updates reflected the small number of items taken in private Committee session.
- The Board considered and approved **minutes** and **action logs** of the Private Board meeting on the 27 January 2022.