Unconfirmed Minutes of the Public Health Wales
Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Meeting Public Session
23 June 2026 at 10:00, via Microsoft Teams
Part A

Present		
Kate Young	(KY)	Committee Chair, Non-Executive Director (Third Sector)
Nick Elliott	(NE)	Non-Executive Director (Data and Digital)
Clare Jenkins	(CJ)	Vice Chair of the Board and Non-Executive Director
Catherine Purcell	(CP)	Non-Executive Director (University)
In Attendance:		
Liz Blayney	(LB)	Deputy Board Secretary and Deputy Head of the Board Business Unit
Tracey Cooper	(TC)	Chief Executive
Paul Dalton	(PD)	Head of Internal Audit, Audit and Assurance Services, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership
Katrina Febry	(KF)	Audit Wales
Ian Kent	(IK)	Head of Financial Reporting and Control
Zoe Pietrzak	(ZP)	Executive Director of Strategy, Finance and Performance
Blake Rennie	(BR)	Audit Manager, Audit and Assurance Services, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership
Stuart Silcox	(SS)	Assistant Director of Integrated Governance
Martin Veale	(MV)	Independent Adviser
Paul Veysey	(PV)	Board Secretary and Head of the Board Business Unit
Kathryn Watts	(KW)	Audit Wales
Steve Wyndham	(SW)	Audit Wales
Apologies		
Claire Birchall	(CB)	Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance
Pippa Britton	(PB)	Chair of the Board
Neil Stoodley	(NS)	Interim Head of Finance
The meeting commenced at 10:00		

ACGC 1/2026.06.23	Welcome and Apologies for Absence
KY opened the meeting and welcomed all present, noting that the meeting was held electronically and in 3.4 CQ2. The apologies for absence received were noted. The Committee **noted** that the meeting was being recorded to support with accuracy of the minutes, the recording would be deleted once the minutes had been agreed at the next meeting in September 2026.	
ACGC 2/2026.06.23	**Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest in addition to those already declared on the Declarations of Interest Register.	
ACGC 3/2026.06.23	**Year End Reporting / Annual Financial and Governance Statements**
ACGC 3.1/2026.06.23	**Head of Internal Audit Opinion, Final Internal Audit Opinion and Annual Report 2025/26**

PD introduced the item and noted that there were two Final Internal Audit Reports from the 2025/26 Work Plan presented to the Committee.

<u>Alerting of incidents and outbreaks</u>:
BK summarised the report which assessed how the Organisation managed notifiable communicable diseases, including case recording, escalation, coordination, and multi-agency response. It was given a substantial assurance opinion, with one medium-rated finding relating to weaknesses in how lessons learned.

<u>Patient pathways (Diabetic Eye Screening Wales and Abnormal Aortic Aneurysm programmes)</u>:

BK summarised the report which examined patient pathways, governance, clinical oversight, and operational arrangements across both programmes. A reasonable assurance opinion was given, the opportunity to share best practices between programmes was emphasised and five medium-rated recommendations were made:

- Inconsistencies in programme board terms of reference
- Gaps in screening venue risk assessments
- Weaknesses in role/job description management (DESW)
- Missing agenda items for risk register scrutiny
- Gaps in business continuity documentation (AAA)

The Committee discussed the level of assurance that could be taken from the review, particularly in relation to the risk of single points of failure and sought assurance that patient pathway systems did not rely on vulnerable processes such as spreadsheets. BR confirmed that both programmes used dedicated software systems integrated with hospital services and spreadsheets were not used for managing patient data, only for reporting outputs.

The Committee asked about the implementation timescales for the actions, noting that several were due imminently in June 2026. PD and BR clarified that timelines were set by management, guided by expectations for medium-priority findings and that programme leads had already begun implementing corrective actions.

PV reminded the Committee that the recommendations would be recorded and monitored in the Audit Tracker and progress would be reported to the Committee during future meetings, to provide assurance of delivery of actions.

PD presented the Head of Internal Audit Opinion, Final Internal Audit Opinion and Annual Report 2025/26. The report provided a Reasonable Assurance and he noted the only change to the Report since its submission in draft to the Committee at its May meeting was to record the two Internal Audit Reports received as Final Internal Audit Reports at this meeting.

ACGC 3.2/2026.06.23	**Audit Wales Annual Opinion (including ISA 260)**

SW presented the Audit Wales Annual Opinion (including ISA 260). He confirmed the audit had been completed and Audit Wales intended to issue an unqualified audit opinion, with no significant matters, no uncorrected misstatements and no recommendations identified.

He advised the Committee the accounts were of high quality and supported by strong working papers; the audit process had been efficient and collaborative, benefiting from early testing and good engagement with the Organisation.

KW informed the Committee that all previously outstanding areas of work had been resolved, there were no uncorrected misstatements to draw to the Committee's attention. The accounts produced were of a very high quality and an unqualified opinion would be issued. The Auditor General was expected to certify the accounts ahead of the 30 June deadline.

The unqualified opinion was set out in the Letter of Representation to be signed by the Organisation and was included at Appendix 6.

Overall, the presentation of the accounts highlighted a strong financial stewardship position, with Audit Wales expressing appreciation for the Organisation's cooperation and the quality of the accounts produced.

IK, on behalf of the Finance Team thanked Audit Wales for the support they had received during the Audit process and agreed the new software had improved the process significantly.

The Committee expressed its thanks to the Finance Team for their work to achieve an excellent report from Audit Wales.

ACGC 3.3/2026.06.23	**Draft Annual Financial Statement and Accounts 2025/26**

ZP presented the Draft Annual Financial Statement and Accounts 2025/26, and commented that the accounts process had provided her with significant assurance regarding the quality of the financial statements, supporting processes and working papers at the Organisation. She recognised the strong and constructive working relationship between Public Health Wales and Audit Wales as a key factor underpinning the successful outcome.

In emphasising that achieving an audit outcome with no recommendations was not typical and she expressed her thanks to the finance team, particularly IK and colleagues, for their efforts to deliver an excellent result.

IK reported that a lessons learned exercise was completed following the previous year's audit which had informed improvements to this year's process and led to a smoother and more efficient audit, including improved preparation and earlier readiness of information. He confirmed that a lessons learned exercise was planned for July, with the intention of continued refinement to improve the process for next year's Audit. He informed the Committee that the Finance Team had completed their work ahead of the deadline and proposed an earlier deadline for 2026/27.

The Committee noted the format of the Report, noting that the readability of some tables was difficult. IK informed the Committee the template was provided by Welsh Government and could not be changed. The Committee was informed that a 'user friendly form' of the Report would be provided at the Annual General Meeting.

ACGC 3.4/2026.06.23	**Draft Accountability Report 2025/26**

PV presented the Draft Accountability Report 2025/26 and informed the Committee that following the Committee meeting on 7 May, the Draft Accountability Report was submitted to Welsh Government for review. There were some minor changes suggested, these were incorporated to the Report submitted to the Committee and they were documented in the Cover Report.

TC expressed her thanks to everyone involved in producing the Annual Report.

The Committee enquired whether the tables on page 88 were correct as the years noted were 2023/24 and 2024/25. PV agreed to correct any errors before the Report was submitted to Board.
Action: PV

ACGC 3.5/2026.06.23	**For Recommendation to the Board**

The Committee:

- Took **assurance** from the Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2025/26 (Item 3.1)
- **Recommended** the Financial Accounts and the Audit Wales Annual Opinion (ISA260) to the Board for approval. (Items 3.2 and 3.3)
- **Recommended** the Accountability Report 2025/26 for Board approval. (Item 3.4)
- **Noted** that once approved by the Board, the documents will be submitted to Welsh Government by 30 June 2026

ACGC 4/2026.06.23	**To Note**

The Committee **received** and **noted** the Committee Work Plan 2026/27

ACGC 11/2026.06.23	**Closing Administration**

The Committee was asked to provide feedback on the meeting to LB. **Date of next Committee meeting:** 3 September 2026. **Any Other Business:** None. KY thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.
The Meeting closed at 10:35