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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board



		Agenda Item	2.5 (iii)
Freedom of Information Status		Open	
Reporting Committee	Audit Committee		
Author	Claire Mulcahy, Corporate Governance Manager		
Chaired by	Martin Sollis, Independent Member		
Lead Executive Director (s)	Pam Wenger, Director of Corporate Governance		
Date of last meeting	12 January 2021		
Summary of key matters considered by the committee and any related decisions made.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Audit Registers and Status of Recommendations There had been an increase in the number of overdue recommendations during the period February 2020 to December 2020 primarily due to the impact of the pandemic. Significant work had been undertaken in terms of the cleansing of registers in order to remove any non-extant recommendations and work was still ongoing. Members agreed that due to the current pressures the committee should focus on chasing the fundamental recommendations i.e. those raised in limited assurance reports that were high priority recommendations and particularly those with an emphasis on patient care. An update would be provided to committee in March 2021.Internal Audit Progress Report Members were advised that from a total of thirty six audit reviews agreed in the audit plan for 2020-21, ten had been finalised; three had been issued in draft; ten were in progress; eleven had not yet been started and two would be reported at year end. Of the five finalised reports since the last reporting period, two had a <i>substantial assurance</i> rating; two had a <i>reasonable assurance</i> rating and no assurance rating was applicable for the other review.Annual Accounts Timeline and Plan Draft accounts are to be submitted to Welsh Government by midday on 30th April 2020, with audited accounts to be submitted by midday on 11th June 2020. Key issues were highlighted in relation to the account’s closedown process. These issues included the ability of clinical staff to undertake physical stock counts due to COVID-19 pressures, the ability for staff to physically verify fixed assets and the ability to obtain information from the NHS Pensions Agency in relation to scheme pays cases. It was also noted that the Oracle financial ledger was being upgraded during the first half of 2021, with tests taking place during February and May 2021. Members approved the year-end accounts timetable and closure plan and agreed that a further update should be provided to committee in March 2021.			
Key risks and issues/matters of concern of which the board needs to be made aware:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Digital Risks The committee received a report providing an update on the health board’s highest digital risks and the actions being taken to mitigate against them. Of the five risks, the two highest with ratings of 20 or above were <i>Cyber Security</i> and <i>National Data Outages</i>. Cyber security			

continues to be a threat to all NHS bodies, the health board were doing well in terms of mitigation but it was important to focus on continuous improvement and resilience in this area. With regards to the national data outages, members were assured that there had not been any adverse incidents since June 2019; nevertheless, the risk would need to remain at 20 for the meantime while national NWIS developments continued. Since the update provided to the committee in March there has been a National Infrastructure review. Members noted that there was a further risk in this area relating to the movement of the data centre from Blaenavon to a new location planned for July 2021. The transition will need to be monitored closely until the benefits of this move i.e. improved stability of hosted services are realised.

• **Finance Update**

Members were advised that the financial position for period 9 stood at an in-month overspend of £1.944m. Pay costs had increased during the period but a decrease in non-pay costs had offset this. The year-end forecast deficit now stood at £24.4m and there was confidence that this would be achieved. It was noted that due to Covid, there was a potential need for a significant year end provision relating to untaken leave. This was being discussed on an all-Wales basis and guidance would be issued to staff at the end of the week.

Delegated action by the committee:

None identified.

Main sources of information received:

The following reports were received with no significant issues raised:

- Board Assurance Framework;
- Audit Wales Performance and Progress Report;
- Year End Reporting Arrangements;
- Losses and Special Payments;
- NWSSP Procurement Single Tender Actions and Quotations.

Highlights from sub-groups reporting into this committee:

None identified.

Matters referred to other committee

None identified.

Date of next meeting

09 March 2021