



**CYFARFOD BWRDD IECHYD PRIFYSGOLN ANEURIN
BEVAN/ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES OF THE AUDIT RISK & ASSURANCE
COMMITTEE**

DATE OF MEETING	Tuesday 28 th April 2026 09:30-11:30
VENUE	Microsoft Teams

PRESENT	Iwan Jones - Committee Chair – Independent Member Dafydd Vaughan - Independent Member Neil Patrick - Independent Member Helen Sweetland – Independent Member
IN ATTENDANCE	Rani Dash - Director of Corporate Governance Lucy Windsor – Head of Corporate Risk and Assurance Rob Holcombe – Director of Finance and Procurement Robert Jones – Assistant Director of Finance Gareth Lavington – Head of Counter Fraud Paul Solloway – Director of Digital Murry Guard – Auditor, Internal Audit Naomi Murtaugh – Head of Board Business Stephen Chaney - Head of Internal Audit Efion Jones – Deputy Head of Internal Audit Sara Utley - Performance Audit Lead, Audit Wales Julie Rees – Finance Audit Manager, Audit Wales Andrew Doughton – Audit Wales Harry Morris – Secreteriat Danielle Jackson - Secretariat
OBSERVING	None to note
APOLOGIES	Helen Cunningham – Independent Member

Minute Reference	Preliminary Matters
ARAC 0428/01	Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
ARAC 0428/02	Apologies for Absence Apologies were noted.



ARAC 0428/03	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest raised to record.
ARAC 0428/04	Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 February 2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record.
ARAC 0428/05	Committee Action Log The Committee reviewed the action log, noting actions completed, actions in progress, and actions not yet due. Iwan Jones (IJ), Committee Chair, highlighted a query relating to discharge planning actions, noting that there had previously been inconsistencies between reported positions and the audit log. IJ requested assurance that these would be reconciled. Lucy Windsor (LW), Head of Corporate Risk and Assurance, confirmed that this would be addressed within the forthcoming deep dive report. The Committee AGREED that completed actions could be removed from the Action Log.
ARAC 0428/06	Revisit Records Management Internal Audit Stephen Chaney (SC), Head of Internal Audit, presented an update on the Records Management audit. SC outlined that the previous review had been assessed as Limited Assurance and that a key action related to implementation of a new software solution. Rather than undertaking a standalone audit in 2026/27, SC advised that progress against the key actions would be reviewed within a wider digital project management audit. Paul Solloway (PS), Director of Digital, advised that a software development roadmap, including records management system improvements, would be presented to the Executive Committee to support prioritisation. Members acknowledged that records management remained a long-term programme with several actions still outstanding. The Committee NOTED the update.



	ITEMS FOR APPROVAL / RATIFICATION / DECISION
<p>ARAC 0428/07</p>	<p>To Approve reviewed and updated Financial Control Procedures</p> <p>Robert Jones (RJ), Assistant Director of, presented the updated Financial Control Procedures (FCPs), noting two minor updates and confirming that all other procedures remained within review cycles.</p> <p>Iwan Jones (IJ), Committee Chair, sought assurance on delivery against key financial reporting milestones. RJ confirmed that all deadlines remained on track, and Julie Rees (JR), Audit Wales, confirmed no concerns from an external audit perspective.</p> <p>Dafydd Vaughan (DV), Independent Member, queried whether non-NHS clinical commissioning procedures covered GP services. Robert Holcombe (RH), Director of Finance and Procurement, clarified that the procedures applied specifically to secondary care.</p> <p>The Committee APPROVED the updated Financial Control Procedures; Financial Management System General Ledger and Commissioning Non-NHS Clinical Services</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/08</p>	<p>To Agree the Counter Fraud Annual Work Plan 2026/27</p> <p>Gareth Lavington (GL), Head of Counter Fraud, presented the annual work plan, noting that it remained broadly consistent but had strengthened alignment to the NHS Wales Counter Fraud Strategy.</p> <p>Neil Patrick (NP), Independent Member, queried the risk posed by artificial intelligence (AI) in fraud. GL advised that current concerns related primarily to recruitment fraud involving AI-generated applications. Paul Solloway (PS), Director of Digital, highlighted that guidance was available for managers on identifying AI use in recruitment.</p> <p>Robert Holcombe (RH), Director of Finance and Procurement, added that the counter fraud approach was increasingly risk-based, with stronger engagement from executive leads.</p>



	<p>The Committee APPROVED the Counter Fraud Annual Work Plan 2026/27.</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/09</p>	<p>To Approve Audit Recommendation Tracking report.</p> <p>Lucy Windsor (LW), Head of Corporate Risk and Assurance, presented the Audit Recommendation Tracking Report for Q4 December 31, 2026 – March 30, 2026, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 recommendations completed • 27 revised deadlines • 80 live recommendations remaining <p>LW advised that several older recommendations, particularly low-priority or digital-related items, were being reviewed for potential closure.</p> <p>Members raised concerns regarding the volume of deferred recommendations, particularly high-priority items. Iwan Jones (IJ), Committee Chair, emphasised the need for clearer action plans from responsible executives where deadlines were extended.</p> <p>Stephen Chaney (SC), Head of Internal Audit, provided context regarding low-priority recommendations and advisory reviews, noting these were not always intended for formal tracking.</p> <p>The Committee APPROVED the completed recommendations and revised deadlines, while requesting a detailed review of legacy recommendations to be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: Head of Corporate Risk and Assurance</p>
	<p>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/10</p>	<p>To Receive Report of Losses and Special Payment</p> <p>Robert Jones (RJ), Assistant Director of Finance, presented the report on losses and special payments.</p> <p>Members discussed potential financial impacts from changes in claims thresholds under “Putting Things Right”. Robert Holcombe (RH), Director of Finance and Procurement advised that increased</p>



	<p>claim values could result in higher costs but may reduce longer legal processes.</p> <p>Members also discussed penalties arising from delays in “lessons learned” processes, noting broader financial implications, including potential impacts on Welsh Risk Pool contributions.</p> <p>Stephen Chaney (SC), Head of Internal Audit, confirmed that an audit of Welsh Risk Pool lessons learned processes was planned for 2026/27.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the report.</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/11</p>	<p>To Receive Report on the use of Single Tender Action.</p> <p>Robert Jones (RJ), Assistant Director of Finance, presented the report outlining instances of single tender actions.</p> <p>It was noted that overall levels remained low relative to organisational scale, though one higher-value case had been included for transparency. A small number of cases were undergoing further review due to process compliance concerns.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the report and the ongoing review of specific cases.</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/12</p>	<p>To Receive Internal Audit Progress Report</p> <p>Stephen Chaney (SC), Head of Internal Audit, presented the Internal Audit Progress Report, advising that audit work for the year was nearing completion, with only a small number of reviews outstanding.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the progress report.</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/13</p>	<p>To Receive Internal Audit Reports</p> <p>Stephen Chaney (SC), Head of Internal Audit, presented four internal audit reports, all of which received Reasonable Assurance.</p> <p>SC summarised the key findings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategic Risk and Assurance Report was positive overall, with only minor areas for improvement identified.



- The **Capital Projects: Service Readiness Report** found generally sound arrangements, with improvements required around implementation dates and tracking.
- The **Directorate Review – CAMHS** received reasonable assurance with no significant concerns raised.
- The **Occupational Health Report** noted a recurring theme of performance pressures linked to workforce capacity, with concerns regarding service resilience and the timeliness of workforce planning actions.

Iwan Jones (IJ), Committee Chair, raised concern regarding the absence of clear implementation dates within the Capital Projects report and requested that these be updated to enable effective tracking. **ACTION: HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

IJ also highlighted concerns in relation to Occupational Health, particularly the delayed timescales for workforce development actions, which did not reflect the immediacy of the current service pressures.

The Committee **NOTED** the reports.

ARAC 0428/14

To Agree the Draft Internal Audit Annual Workplan 2026/27

Stephen Chaney (SC), Head of Internal Audit, presented the draft Internal Audit Plan.

Neil Patrick (NP), Independent Member, suggested that staff experience and workforce issues should be considered within future audit work. Rani Dash (RD), Director of Corporate Governance, recommended aligning any further work with forthcoming Board discussions on staff survey findings.

The Committee **APPROVED** the draft Internal Audit Annual Workplan 2026/27, subject to potential refinement following Board discussions on staff experience.

ARAC 0428/15

To Review the Draft Internal Audit Opinion and Annual report 2025/26

Stephen Chaney (SC), Head of Internal Audit, presented the draft Internal Audit Opinion, indicating that it was likely to be Reasonable Assurance overall.



	<p>SC confirmed that remaining audit work was close to completion and that the final opinion would be presented in May.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the draft opinion and anticipated a final Reasonable Assurance opinion.</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/16</p>	<p>External Audit Progress Report</p> <p>Sara Utley (SU), Audit Wales, presented the External Audit Progress Report, outlining ongoing work on accounts and performance audit programmes.</p> <p>Julie Rees (JR), Audit Wales, advised that the audit of the Annual Accounts was due to commence imminently and remained on track, with a proposed audit opinion scheduled for the June Committee. No significant issues were reported at this stage.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the report.</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/17</p>	<p>External Audit Plan 2026/27</p> <p>Julie Rees (JR), Audit Wales and Andrew Doughton (AD), Audit Wales, presented the External Audit Plan outlining planned financial and performance audit work.</p> <p>Key financial risks included management override and the organisation’s financial position, consistent with prior years. AD highlighted planned performance work, including reviews of diabetes services and theatre efficiency, and structured assessment</p> <p>No concerns were raised by the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the External Audit Plan 2026/27.</p>
<p>ARAC 0428/18</p>	<p>Audit Wales Digital Transformation Report</p> <p>Sara Utley (SU), Audit Wales, presented the Digital Transformation Report to the Committee</p> <p>Key findings included:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in digital delivery despite limited funding • Need to strengthen governance and oversight of projects • Gaps in cyber assurance and digital workforce capability <p>Paul Solloway (PS), Director of Digital, welcomed the report and confirmed actions were underway.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the report and endorsed its findings and agreed that it should be referred to the Finance and Performance Committee for further scrutiny.</p>
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION	
ARAC 0428/19	<p>Programme of Business</p> <p>The Committee received the Programme of Business for information.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the report.</p>
ARAC 0428/20	<p>Regional Integration Fund Audit Wales Report</p> <p>Sara Utley (SU), Audit Wales, presented the Regional Integration Fund report.</p> <p>Rani Dash (RD), Director of Corporate Governance, confirmed that the report would be considered by the Planning, Partnerships, Population Health Committee, and that local scrutiny arrangements would be reviewed.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the report and agreed that it would be referred to the appropriate Committee for further consideration.</p>
ARAC 0428/21	<p>Internal Audit Briefs</p> <p>Stehen Chaney (SC), Head of Internal Audit presented four Internal Audit Briefs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits Realisation Audit Brief • Overseas Recruitment Audit Brief • Professional Staff Registration • Cancer Referral Rates Audit Brief

	The Committee NOTED the briefs for information.
	Other Matters
ARAC 0428/22	Items to be Brought to the Attention of the Board and Other Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Transformation Report to the Finance and Performance Committee • Regional Integration Fund Report to the Planning, Partnerships, Population Health Committee • Occupational Health audit to the People and Culture Committee
ARAC 0428/23	Any Other Urgent Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing reported.
ARAC 0428/24	Date of the next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 19th May 2026