



---

## Summary Minutes of the Board Meeting, 17 February 2017

---

### **Present:**

Permanent Secretary (Chair)  
Gillian Baranski  
Gawain Evans  
Owen Evans  
Jeff Godfrey  
Andrew Goodall  
Peter Kennedy  
Natalie Pearson  
David Richards  
Elan Closs Stephens  
James Turner  
Adrian Webb  
Ann Keane  
James Price  
Lynne Schofield  
Sarah Rhodes  
Toby Mason (Item 1)

### **In attendance:**

Des Clifford (Item 3)  
Piers Bisson (Item 3)

### **Apologies:**

Sioned Evans

### **Secretariat:**

Emma Alexander  
Sarita Marshall

The Permanent Secretary welcomed Board members to her first Board meeting since taking up her post earlier in the month.

## **Governance & Performance**

### **1. Monitoring Delivery Progress – Group Priorities and Challenges [Oral]**

- 1.1 Owen Evans, Deputy Permanent Secretary, EPS, James Price, Deputy Permanent Secretary, ESNR, Andrew Goodall, Director General of Health/NHS Chief Executive, and David Richards, Director of Governance, outlined the priorities and challenges for their Groups.

## **2. Finance Report [Oral]**

- 2.1 Gawain Evans, Director of Finance, gave an oral update on the Departmental Expenditure Limit budget and forecast position for each Main Expenditure Group (MEG), based on the information available at that time, and the budget exchange position. A full Finance Report would be circulated out of committee, once available.
- 2.2 An update on the financial position of health organisations and the HSS MEG was provided. The Permanent Secretary would be briefed in more detail separately.

## **Corporate**

### **3. EU Transition [Oral]**

- 3.1 An update on the latest developments around EU Transition was provided by Des Clifford, Director of the Office of the First Minister, and Piers Bisson, Deputy Director – EU Transition, with reference to the key points set out in the White Paper ‘Securing Wales’ Future’. These included constitutional and devolution issues, questions around how areas currently operated within an EU regulatory framework would be dealt with going forward, how those policy choices would impact on resourcing within the Welsh Government, and the legacy of social and environmental protections.
- 3.2 The Permanent Secretary congratulated the team on the White Paper, noting that it had been received as a clear and considered document in London.
- 3.3 Work had been undertaken to ensure that that the First Minister’s position was understood by the media and that key messages were communicated within the organisation. The need to ensure the messages were communicated more widely was recognised. The Permanent Secretary noted the importance of maintaining a constructive and engaged approach to the discussions on EU Transition in order to ensure the specific interests of Wales were conveyed and acted on.
- 3.4 The excellent work undertaken by Piers Bisson’s team in a short space of time and with limited resources was noted, and it was agreed that EU Transition should become a standing item on Board agendas and resources kept under review.
- 3.5 The Board heard that the implications of EU Transition were already becoming apparent in the health service, as health boards were finding that newly recruited staff based outside the UK were deciding not to take up posts due to the uncertainty of their position going forward.
- 3.6 The Board was told that establishing the rights of those who had migrated to Wales for work was an early priority for the First Minister.

**4. Risk Management Update [Board(17)001]**

- 4.1 The Board considered the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) and the approach taken to identifying those risks, as opposed to those for Group registers.
- 4.2 The Board discussed new risks identified for inclusion, risks identified for removal as well as amendments to existing risks.
- 4.3 It was also agreed that consideration should be given to removing ICT systems resilience from the register, pending a substantive discussion at a future Board meeting, and that there should be a clear process/audit trail for risks removed from the CRR and added to Group Risk Registers.
- 4.4 As OFMCO Group did not have an Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, it had been agreed that OFMCO risks should be the subject of a deep dive by the Welsh Government Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.
- 4.5 The Board noted the progress made in rolling out the new protocols for risk management and thanked David Richards and Helen Morris for their work.

**Regular Items****5 Draft Minutes of 9 December and Matters Arising [Board(17)002]**

- 5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December were agreed as an accurate record.

**6 Permanent Secretary's Items and Exception reports [Oral]***Permanent Secretary's Items*

- 6.4 The Permanent Secretary reported that, during her first two weeks in post, she had met with the First Minister to discuss priorities, held staff sessions in Cardiff and North Wales, and met with the Trade Union Side and the Auditor General for Wales. The Board heard that the Permanent Secretary would look to ensure the organisation had the right workforce to deliver the Programme for Government and expressed her thanks to the Heads of Groups for their leadership in developing the cross-cutting strategies underpinning the Programme.

*Exception Reports*

- 6.5 The Permanent Secretary invited Board members to share key issues from within their areas. These included receipt of health organisations' three-year plans, media reporting on winter pressures, and progress in areas such as cancer diagnostics and GP recruitment; updates on achieving diversity targets, the Wales Bill, and Article 50; changes to the budget-setting process and the nomination of two teams for the

Government Finance Profession Awards; and updates on the Curriculum Review, and Communities First.

- 6.6 The Board also discussed staff numbers and the controls in place for managing these. The Permanent Secretary requested a separate conversation on this.

## **7 Sub-committee Updates**

- 7.1 The Board received updates from the Senior Civil Service Remuneration Committee and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARC). The Wales Audit Office (WAO) and Internal Audit had attended the ARC meeting and had commended the organisation on its preparedness for new fiscal powers. The Board also heard that a training day would be arranged for the ARC to ensure continuous improvement.
- 7.2 The Board was told that the Operations Committee had considered the draft Digital Plan for the organisation and had touched on Intermediaries Legislation (IR35) on off-payroll working.

## **8 Any other business**

- 8.1 The Permanent Secretary drew attention to the papers to note and invited Board members to share with her any suggestions for future Board agenda items.

**Board Secretariat, 21 February 2017**