



 <p>Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales</p>	<p><b>Name of Meeting</b> Audit and Corporate Governance Committee</p> <p><b>Date of Meeting</b> 23 June 2026</p> <p><b>Agenda item:</b> 3.4</p>
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**Accountability Report –**

- Annex 1 - Director’s Report
- Annex 2 - Statement of Accounting Officer’s Responsibilities
- Annex 3 - Statement of Directors Responsibility in respect of the Accounts
- Annex 4 - Annual Governance Statement
- Annex 5 - Remuneration Report
- Annex 6 - Welsh Parliament Accountability and Audit Report

<b>Executive lead:</b>	Zoe Pietrzak, Executive Director of Strategy, Finance and Performance  Paul Veysey, Board Secretary and Head of Board Business Unit
<b>Author:</b>	Annual Governance Statement: Liz Blayney, Deputy Board Secretary and Deputy Head of Board Business Unit  Remuneration Report: Lucy Day, Business and Policy Support Manager  Welsh Parliament Accountability and Audit Report – Audit Wales
<b>Approval/Scrutiny route:</b>	Draft Accountability Report was approved for submission to Audit Wales and Welsh Government by Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on 7 May 2026  The Chief Executive reviewed and signed off the documents prior to submission to Welsh Government, Internal Audit and Audit Wales.

**Purpose**

Public Health Wales is required to provide an Accountability Report as part of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025-2026. Guidance on how to complete and display this report has been issued by Welsh Government in the Manual for Accounts, and by HM Treasury in the Financial Reporting Manual (FRoM). This report introduces the final reports.

**Recommendation:**

APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOTE <input type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Committee is asked to:				



- **Take Assurance** from the Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2025-2026 (Item 3.1)
- **Recommend** the Financial Accounts and the Audit Wales Annual Opinion (ISA 260) to the Board for approval. (Item 3.2 and 3.3)
- **Recommend** the Accountability Report 2025/26 for Board approval. (Item 3.4)
- **Note** that once approved by the Board, it will be submitted to Welsh Government by 30 June 2026.

**Link to Public Health Wales [Strategic Plan](#)**

Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities.

This report contributes to the following:

<b>Strategic Priority</b>	7 - Building and mobilising knowledge and skills to improve health and well-being across Wales
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**Summary impact analysis**

<b>Equality and Health Impact Assessment</b>	A formal Equality and Health Impact Assessment is not required on this governance document. The Annual Governance Statement includes an overview of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for 2025-2026.
<b>Risk and Assurance</b>	N/a
<b>Health and Social Care Act (Wales)</b>	This report supports and/or takes into account the <a href="#">Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales</a> Quality Themes  Governance, Leadership and Accountability
<b>Financial implications</b>	The report has no direct financial implications.
<b>People implications</b>	There are no direct people implications, although the reports contains details pertaining to the Board members.

## 1. Purpose / situation

Public Health Wales is required to provide an Accountability Report as part of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025/2026. Guidance on how to complete and display these reports has been issued by Welsh Government Manual for Accounts, and by HM Treasury in the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM).

The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee considered an earlier draft of the Annual Governance Report and Remuneration and Staff Report at its meeting on 7 May 2026.

Following the meeting, changes were made to the document to reflect the feedback received at the meeting, comments from the Accountable Officer and minor changes following a full proof read. A revised version of this document was submitted to the Welsh Government, Internal Audit and Audit Wales for review. Comments were received from all three organisations and have been incorporated into the final draft.

The final drafts are provided for consideration by this Committee with a request to recommend them to the Board for approval at its meeting on 26 June 2026.

## 2. Background

1.1 NHS bodies are required to publish, as a single document, a three part Annual Report and Accounts which includes:

- 1) The Performance Report, which must include:
  - An overview
  - A Performance analysis
- 2) The Accountability Report, which must include:
  - A Corporate Governance Report
  - A Remuneration and Staff Report
  - A Welsh Parliament Accountability and Audit Report.
- 3) The Financial Statements, including the Audited Annual Accounts 2025-2026.

The key dates for Public Health Wales are as follows:

<b>7 May 2026</b>	Draft Accountability Report and Financial reports presented to Audit and Corporate Governance Committee for comment.
<b>8 May 2026</b>	Draft Accountability Report and Financial submission to Welsh Government and Audit Wales
<b>23 June 2026</b>	Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Meeting to receive final reports, auditors opinion and consider if content to recommend the report to the Board for subsequent approval
<b>26 June 2026</b>	Request PHW Board approval of final report

**30 June 2026**

Submission of final reports to Audit Wales and Welsh Government

The Accountability Report demonstrates how Public Health Wales meets key accountability requirements to the Welsh Government and is required to have three sections:

**The Corporate Governance Report (Annexes 1-4)**

This explains the composition and organisation of Public Health Wales’ governance structures and how they support the achievement of the entity’s objectives.

**Remuneration and Staff Report (Annex 5)**

This contains information about the remuneration of senior management, fair pay ratios, sickness absence rates.

**Welsh Parliament Accountability and Audit Report (Annex 6)**

This contains a range of disclosures on the regularity of expenditure, fees and charges, compliance with the cost allocation and charging requirements set out in HM Treasury guidance, material remote contingent liabilities, long-term expenditure trends, and the audit certificate and report.

The Board Secretary and Head of Board Business Unit is responsible for the production of the Corporate Governance Report. This has been supported by consultation with Executive team members.

The Remuneration and Staff Report has been produced by the People and Organisational Development Directorate.

Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report has been produced by the Operations and Finance Directorate / Audit Wales.

A revised draft of the Corporate Governance Statement and the Remuneration and Staff Report were submitted to Welsh Government on 12 May 2023.

**3. Description/Assessment**

The Accountability Report is **attached** for the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to review and recommend for Board approval.

Following the meeting of Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on 7 May 2026, some changes were made to the document to reflect the feedback received and a final proof read of the document. A revised version of this document was submitted to the Welsh Government and Audit Wales for review. Comments were received have been incorporated into the final draft.

Since the draft version of the Annual Governance Statement was approved for submission on the 7 May 2026, the document has been updated to reflect feedback. The following changes were made:



### Annual Governance Statement:

Directors' Report title	Reporting year updated from <b>2024/25</b> to <b>2025/26</b>	Ensures the Accountability Report correctly reflects the current reporting period.
Board and Committee meeting schedule – People and Organisational Development Committee	Meeting dates updated, including revisions to the <b>October</b> and <b>January/February</b> meeting dates	Reflects the final meeting timetable for the year and improves accuracy of governance reporting.
Board and Committee meeting schedule – Knowledge, Research and Information Committee	Several meeting dates amended, including <b>June, September, December and March</b>	Ensures the committee activity record is accurate and aligned to the actual meeting cycle.

### Remuneration Report

Amend heading in both Annex 1a and Annex 1b column Benefits in kind figures from £000 to £.
Amend pension benefit figures in both Annex 1a and Annex 1b to be in 2.5k bands.
In paragraph 2.7 of the remuneration report, the total value of approved redundancies is given as £76,480. This should be £76,481 to agree with the table later in the report and Note 10.5.
In Annex 1a, footnote 6, Paul Veysey's name is spelled incorrectly.
Footnotes 2, 3 and 4 disclose the amount of salary sacrifice which has been removed from salaries in line with a new requirement in the MfA. We think additional information should be added, disclosing what the salary bandings would have been if the salary sacrifice hadn't been deducted.
Per remuneration committee minutes for 07/08/25, Iain Bell's job title was changed from 'National Director for Public Health Knowledge and Research' to 'Director of Research, Data and Digital'. The latter has been incorrectly included in the remuneration report.

### 3.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Accountability Report provides the Board with assurance that the Committee’s work is fulfilling its function and terms of reference, supported by effective governance measures. The Committee’s work covers the Well-being objectives identified above.

This work has been put together following the five ways of working, as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act, in the following ways:



The content of the Accountability Report includes an overview of the long-term strategy and indicates future planned work to improve the governance of the organisation.



The Accountability Report provides an overview of how key issues relating to the organisation’s mission, which includes prevention through improving public health.



This report provides assurance that the organisational governance structure is robust and effective in this role.



Staff across directorates have contributed to the development of both the Accountability Report. An overview of the integrated governance structure in Public Health Wales is also provided in the report.



This report provides a broad overview of the main areas of the organisation’s governance for 2025-2026, which includes staff and service-user engagement.

#### 4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- Take **Assurance** from the Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2025/2026 (Item 3.1)
- Recommend the Financial Accounts and the Audit Wales Annual Opinion (ISA 260) to the Board for approval. (Item 3.2 and 3.3)
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